

*"A must have for any fan of these street-level heroes."* – ComicsVerse

BENDIS  
MARQUEZ  
OEMING  
PONSOR

# THE DEFENDERS



KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

**MARVEL**



# THE DEFENDERS

KINGPINS OF NEW YORK







# THE DEFENDERS

## KINGPINS OF NEW YORK

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6

MARVEL LEGACY

6

DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

# THE DEFENDERS



NOW WITH ADDED  
**DEADPOOL!**

MARQUEZ!  
2016  
J-Po?



# THE DEFENDERS

I'M JESSICA JONES.

I'M A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR AND I FIND MYSELF WORKING CASES INVOLVING "PEOPLE WITH ABILITIES" ABOUT 90% OF THE TIME.

YOU PROBABLY ALREADY HEARD THIS, BUT **LUKE CAGE**, MY HUSBAND, AND HIS BEST FRIEND, THE IMMORTAL **IRON FIST**, AND, WELL... **DAREDEVIL**...

(HIS ACTIONS ARE PRETTY PHENOMENAL.)

(BUT WITH GUYS WHO DRESS LIKE THAT, I'VE LEARNED TO FOCUS MORE ON THEIR ACTIONS.)

...THE FOUR OF US HAVE DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER AND, AS PUBLICLY AS WE CAN, LET EVERYONE **KNOW** THAT WE ARE TOGETHER IN--IN--

(EVEN THOUGH WE ARE ALL PRETTY LEVELHEADED, GOOD JUDGES OF CHARACTER, WE HANG AROUND WITH A GUY DRESSED UP LIKE THE DEVIL.)

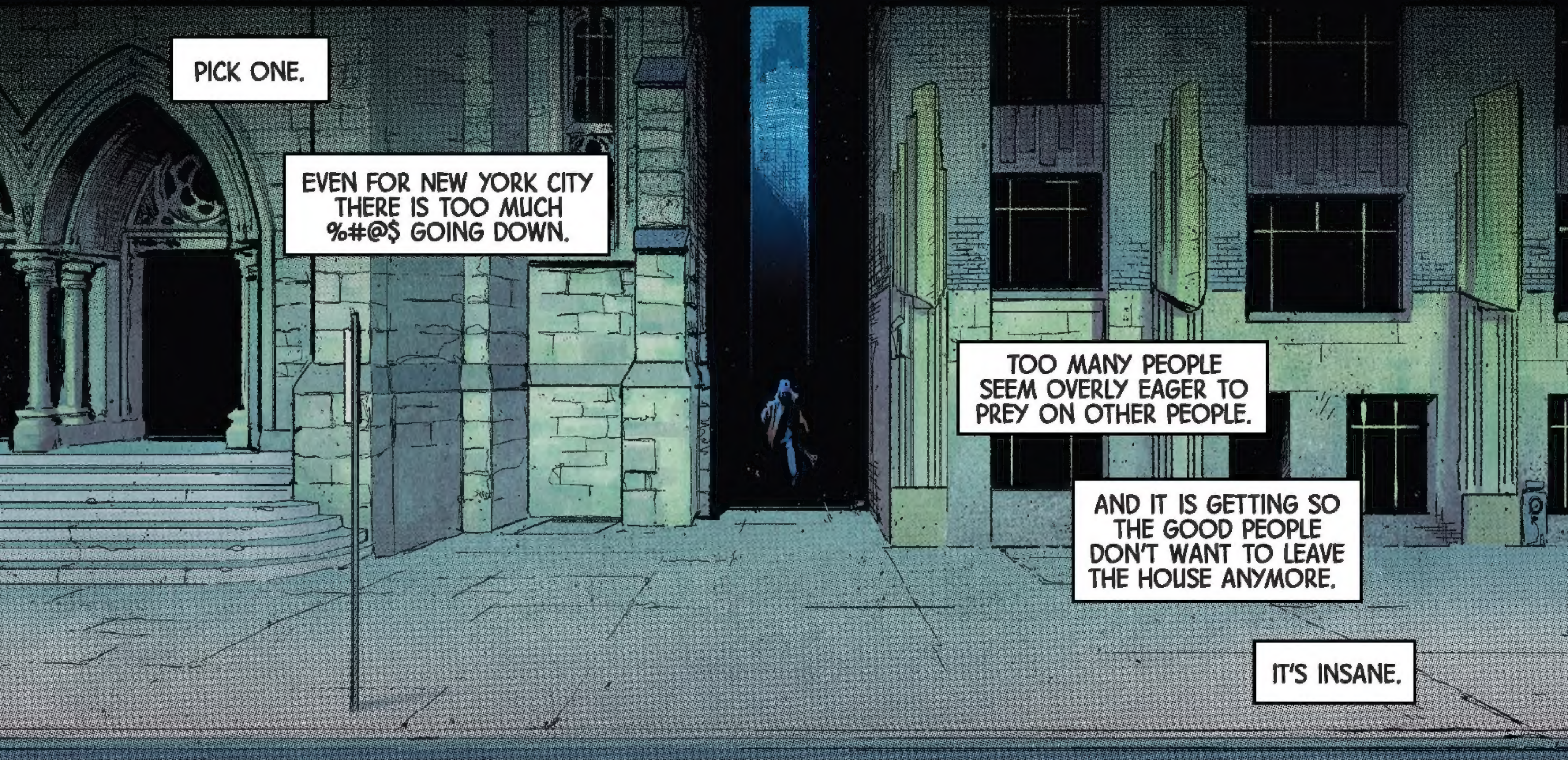
WE'RE GOING TO **DO** SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR CITY...

...BECAUSE WHAT IS GOING ON IS **NOT NORMAL**.

DO YOU ACTUALLY NEED A "FOR INSTANCE"?







PICK ONE.

EVEN FOR NEW YORK CITY  
THERE IS TOO MUCH  
%#@ \$ GOING DOWN.

TOO MANY PEOPLE  
SEEM OVERLY EAGER TO  
PREY ON OTHER PEOPLE.

AND IT IS GETTING SO  
THE GOOD PEOPLE  
DON'T WANT TO LEAVE  
THE HOUSE ANYMORE.

IT'S INSANE.



I HAVE A  
KID NOW.

A DAUGHTER...

AND THIS IS  
NOT THE WORLD  
I THOUGHT WE  
WERE SETTING  
UP FOR HER.



THIS  
%#@ \$  
AIN'T  
WORKING  
LIKE IT  
WAS.

MAYBE  
I'M GETTIN'  
IMMUNE.

THAT  
AIN'T  
GOOD.



TOMORROW'S  
PROBLEM.

JUST  
NEED TO GET  
HOME.

I THOUGHT, BY NOW,  
THINGS WERE GOING TO  
BE SO MUCH BETTER.



AND NOW, SOMETIMES, IT  
EVEN FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING  
IS TURNING BACKWARDS.

UGH...

I'M NOT  
NUTS, RIGHT?

IT REALLY FEELS  
THAT WAY TO ME.



EVERYTHING  
JUST CHANGED.

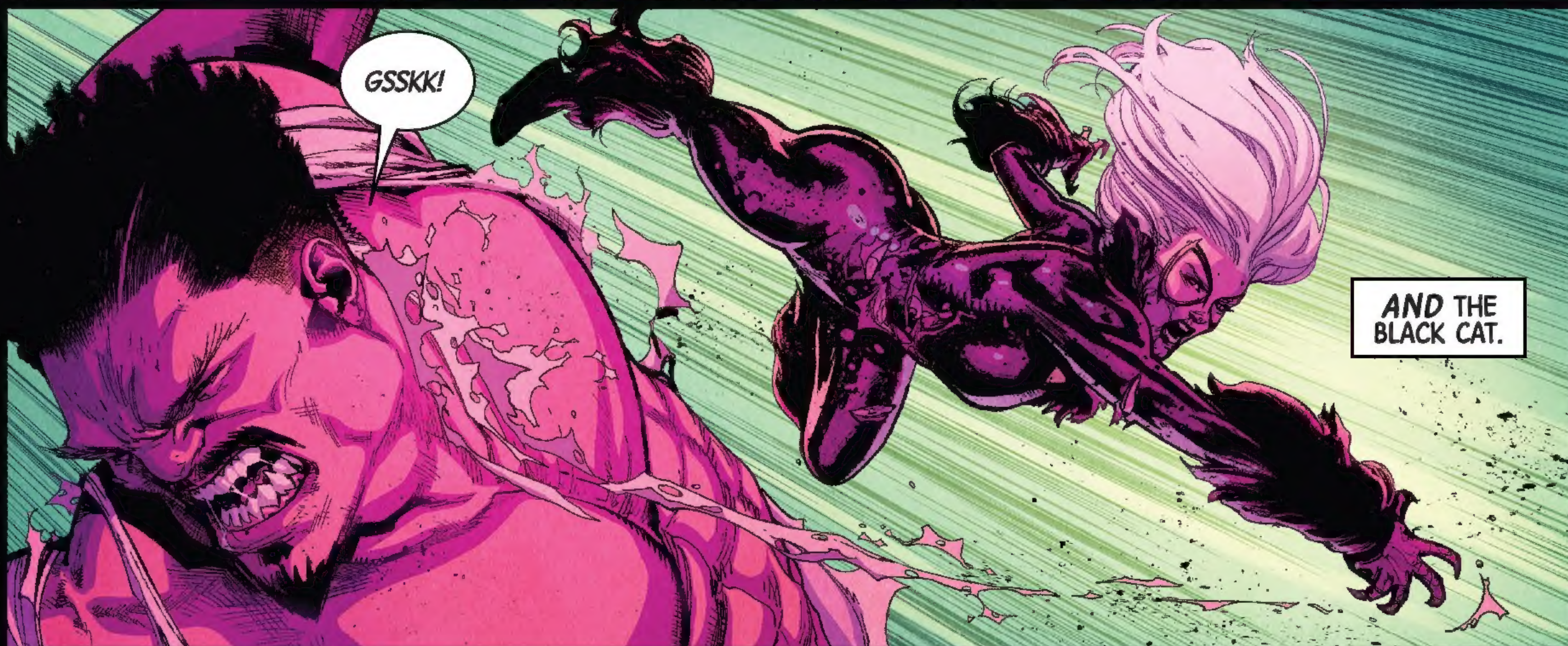




**HUAGH!**

NOW WE'RE  
TALKIN'.

WE GOT RID OF THE  
KINGPIN AND NOW  
WE HAVE TO WORRY  
ABOUT GUYS LIKE  
DIAMONDBACK?!



GSSKK!

AND THE  
BLACK CAT.



BOTH FIGHTING OVER  
THE SAME TERRITORY.

FIGHTING OVER WHO GETS TO  
SQUEEZE THE CITY INTO PULP FIRST...



CAN YOU BELIEVE  
THERE'S A LINE TO  
BE THE KINGPIN?

AIEAA!

**SMASHH**





DIAMONDBACK DOESN'T  
EVEN SEEM TO WANT TO  
FOLLOW ANY RULES...



...ON ANY  
CONCEIVABLE  
LEVEL.

DAMN, CAT, IF  
I HADN'T JACKED  
*MYSELF* UP A MINUTE  
AGO, I THINK YOU  
WOULDA REALLY  
GUTTED ME BACK  
THERE.

I ACTUALLY  
DIDN'T THINK YOU  
HAD THAT IN YA.

AND WITH ALL  
THE GUNSHOTS  
IN YA AND  
EVERYTHING...



...GOOD  
ON YOU.

YOU  
SURE *YOU*  
AIN'T TIPPIN' THE  
SCALES A LITTLE  
BEHIND CLOSED  
DOORS?



DIAMONDBACK  
IS THE *LAST*  
THING WE NEED.

"WE" MEANING US  
AND THE CITY.

YET *HERE*  
HE IS.



SPOK











PUNK-ASS  
#@%\$&#%,  
I ALREADY HIT  
YOU AT HOME  
ONCE!

YOU  
DON'T TAKE  
THE HINT!



I KNOW  
WHERE YOU  
LIVE.

I'M NOT  
WORRIED. MY  
BUILDING HAS  
A...

...DOORMAN.



THERE'S JUST  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT HIM.



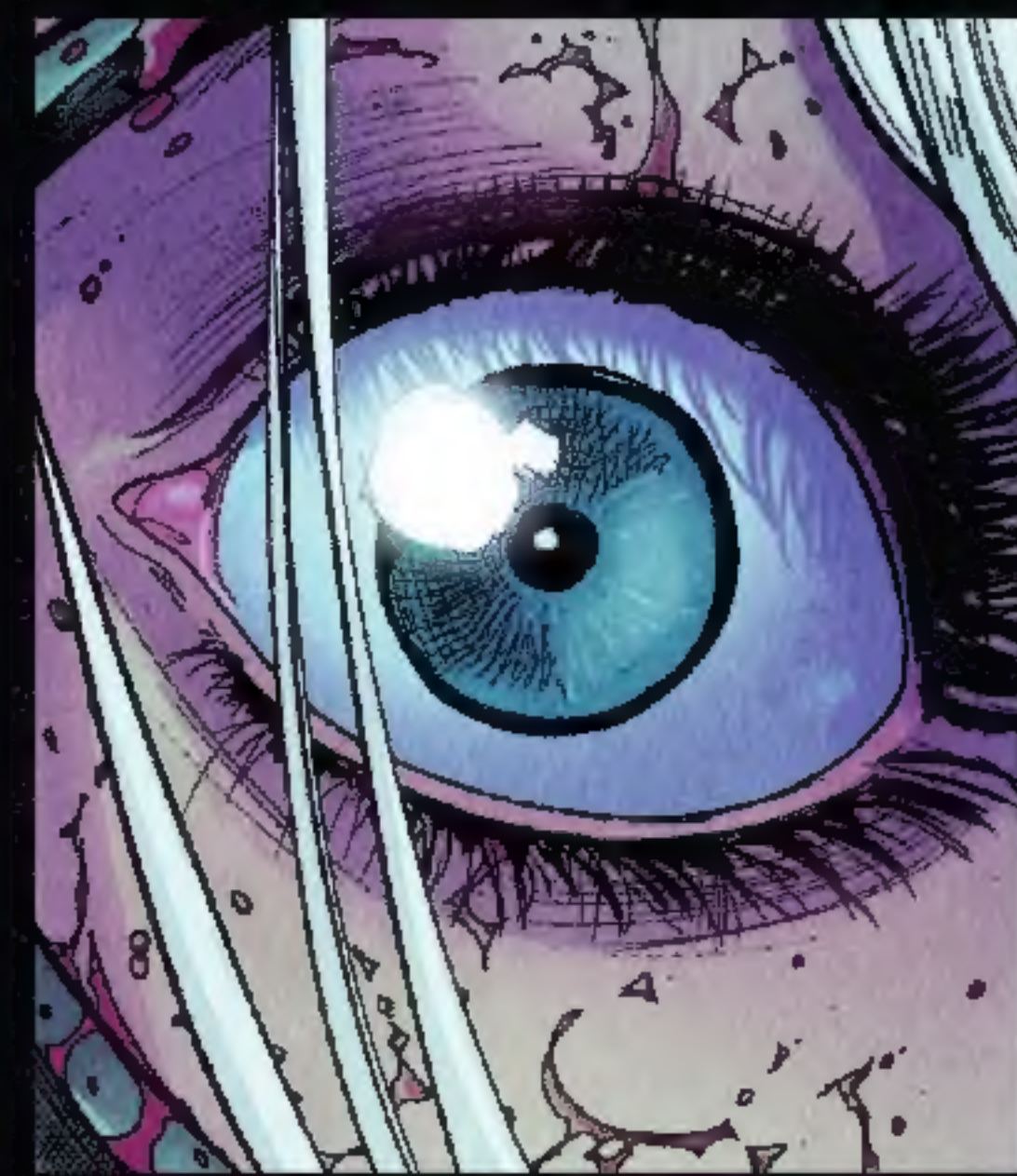
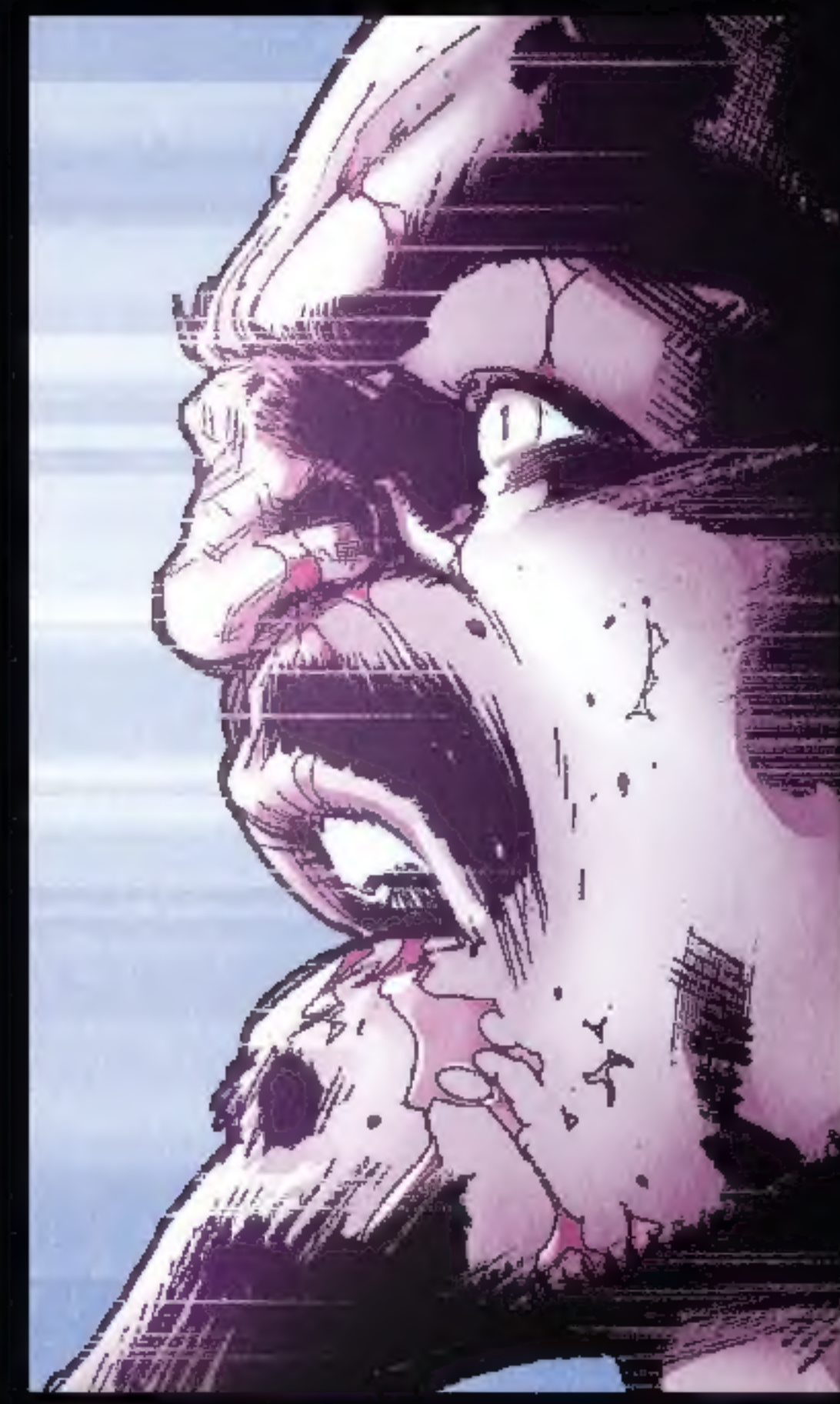
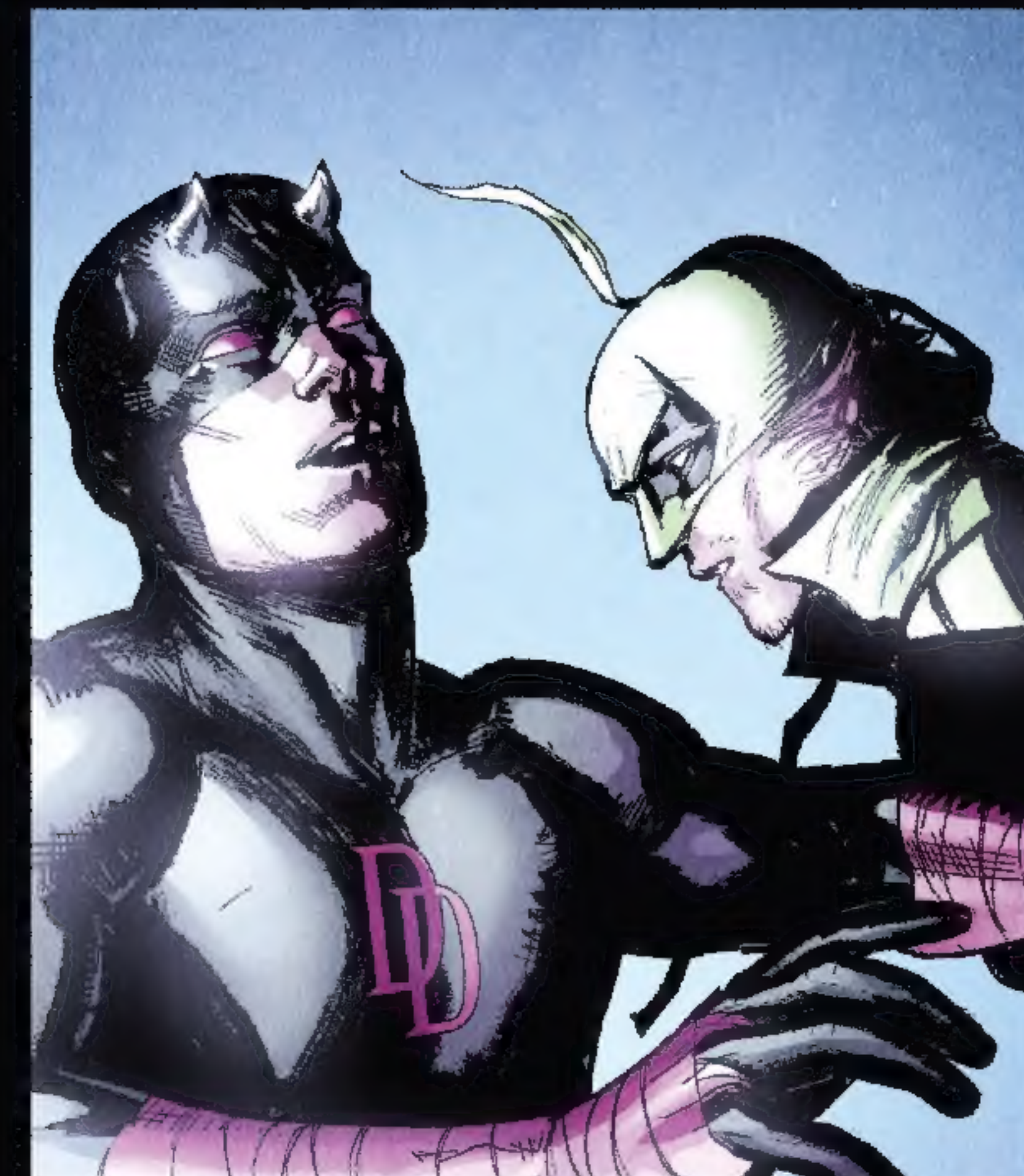
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I CAN SEE  
IT BRINGS UP ALL KINDS OF  
STUFF MY HUSBAND DOESN'T  
WANT TO DEAL WITH...



MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE  
KNOW IF WE BLOW IT...



SPOK











UH...

OW.

WELL, CARL,  
I'M SURE YOU  
GOTTA LOTTA  
QUESTIONS  
FOR ME.

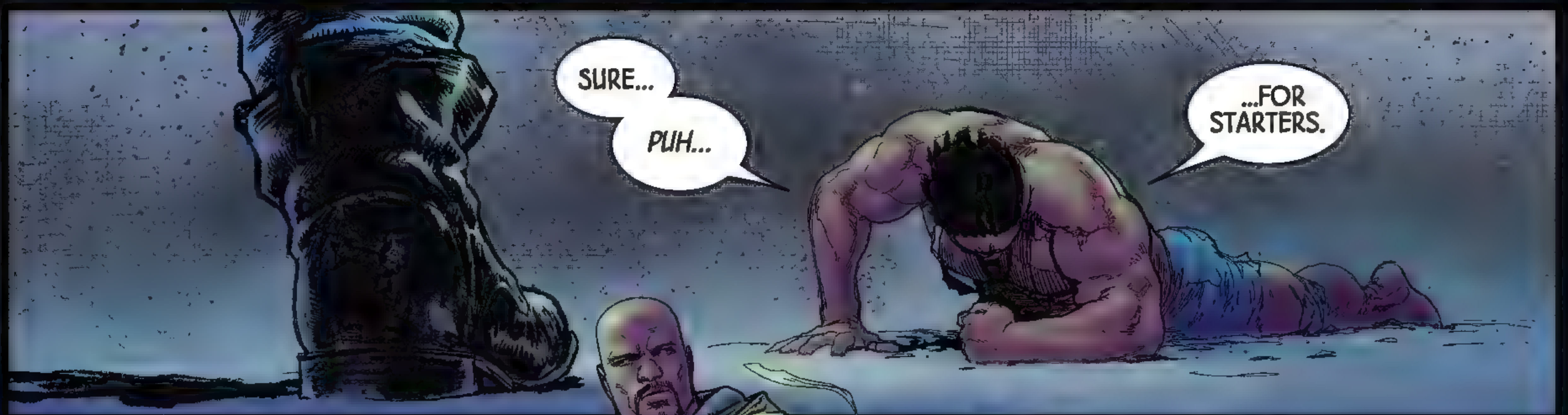


SURE...WHERE  
YA BEEN ALL  
THIS TIME?

HOW ARE  
YA NOT  
DEAD?

HOW COULD  
YOU SET ME UP  
ALL THOSE  
YEARS AGO?

HOW COULD  
YOU GO AND TRY  
TO RUIN BOTH OF US  
WHEN I LOVED YOU  
LIKE A BROTHER?



SURE...

PUH...

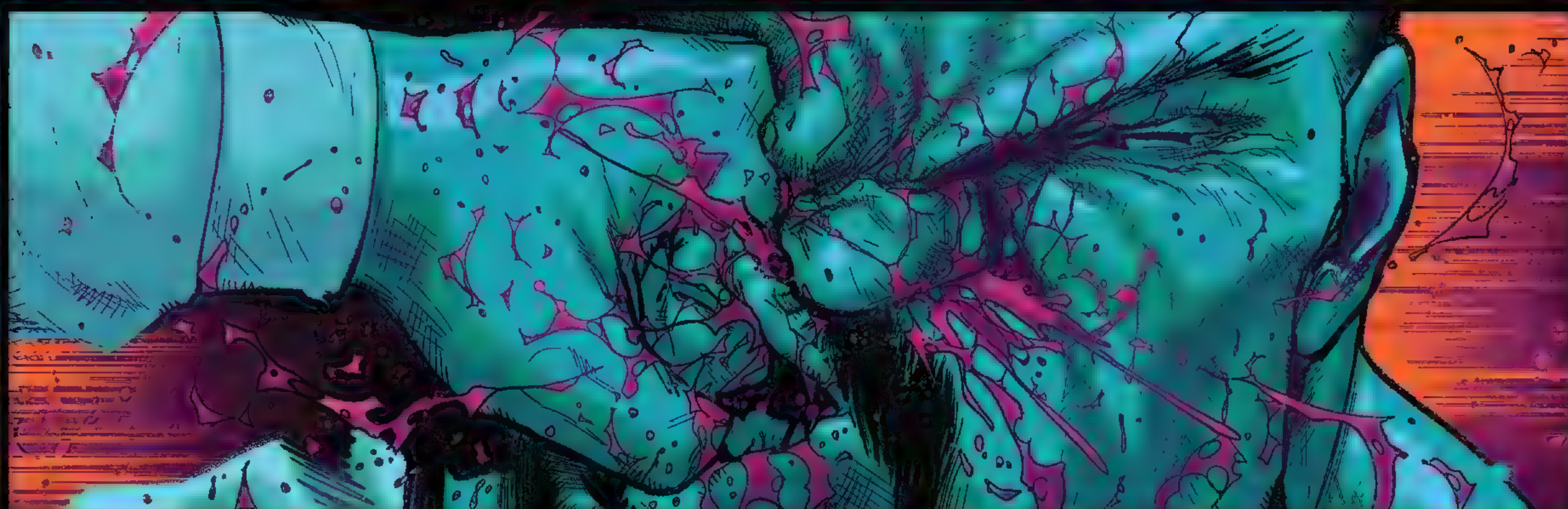
...FOR  
STARTERS.



TURNS OUT,  
I REALLY DON'T  
CARE.







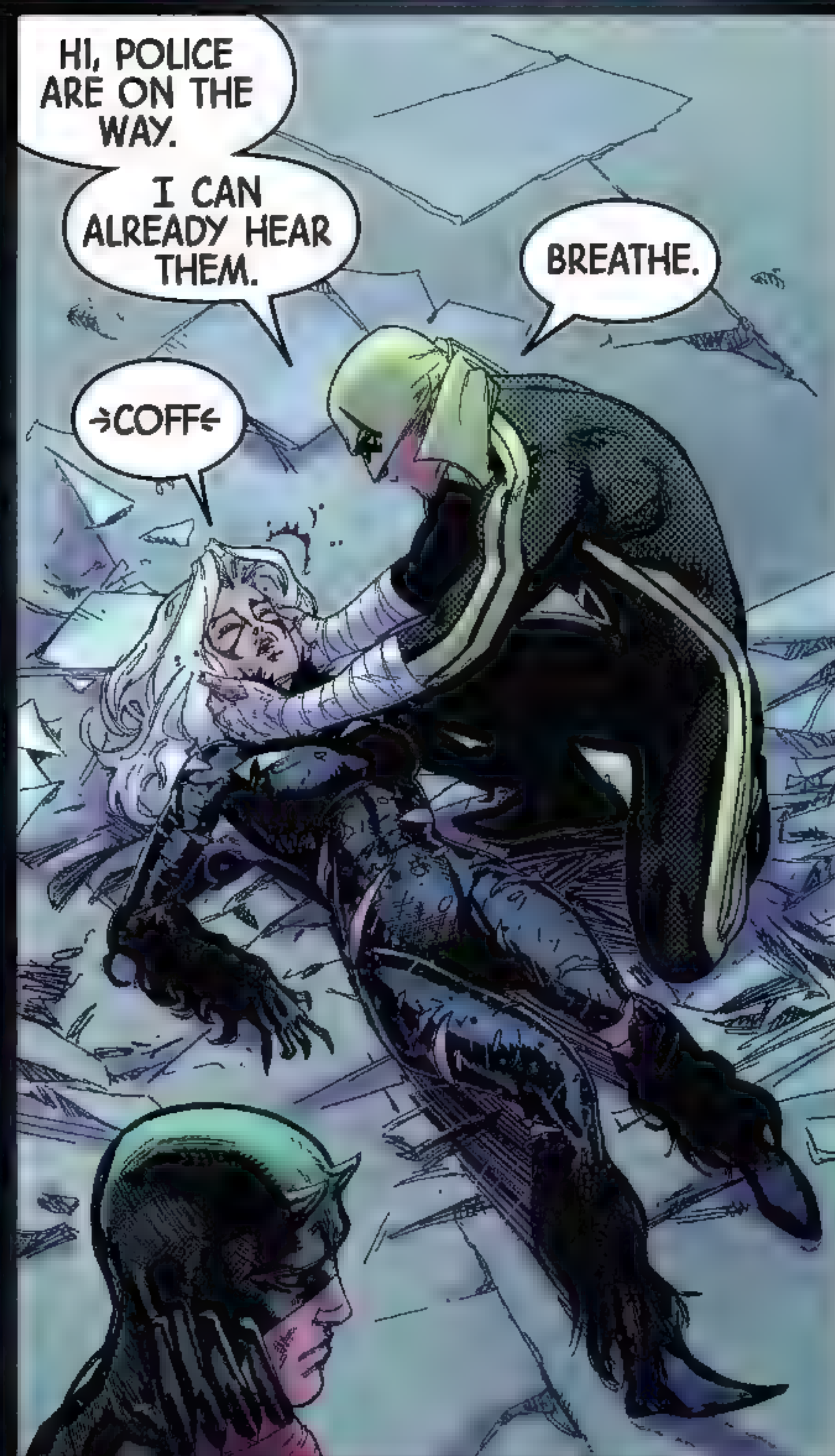




WELL,  
I FEEL  
BETTER.

THIS ISN'T  
GOOD.

REALLY,  
IT FELT  
GREAT.



HI, POLICE  
ARE ON THE  
WAY.

I CAN  
ALREADY HEAR  
THEM.

BREATHE.

→COFF←



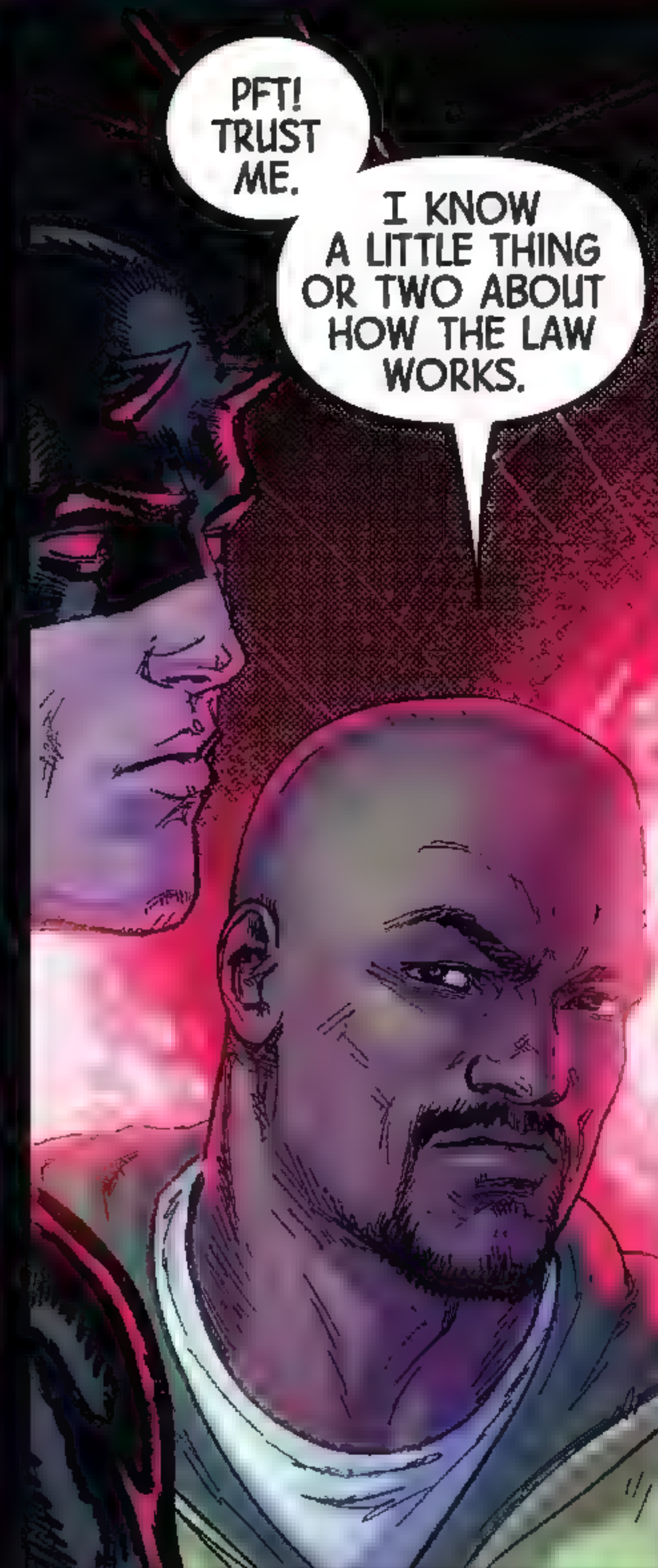
THE COURTS  
ARE GOING TO  
TOSS THIS

NUH-  
UH.

HE'S  
AN ESCAPED  
CONVICT.

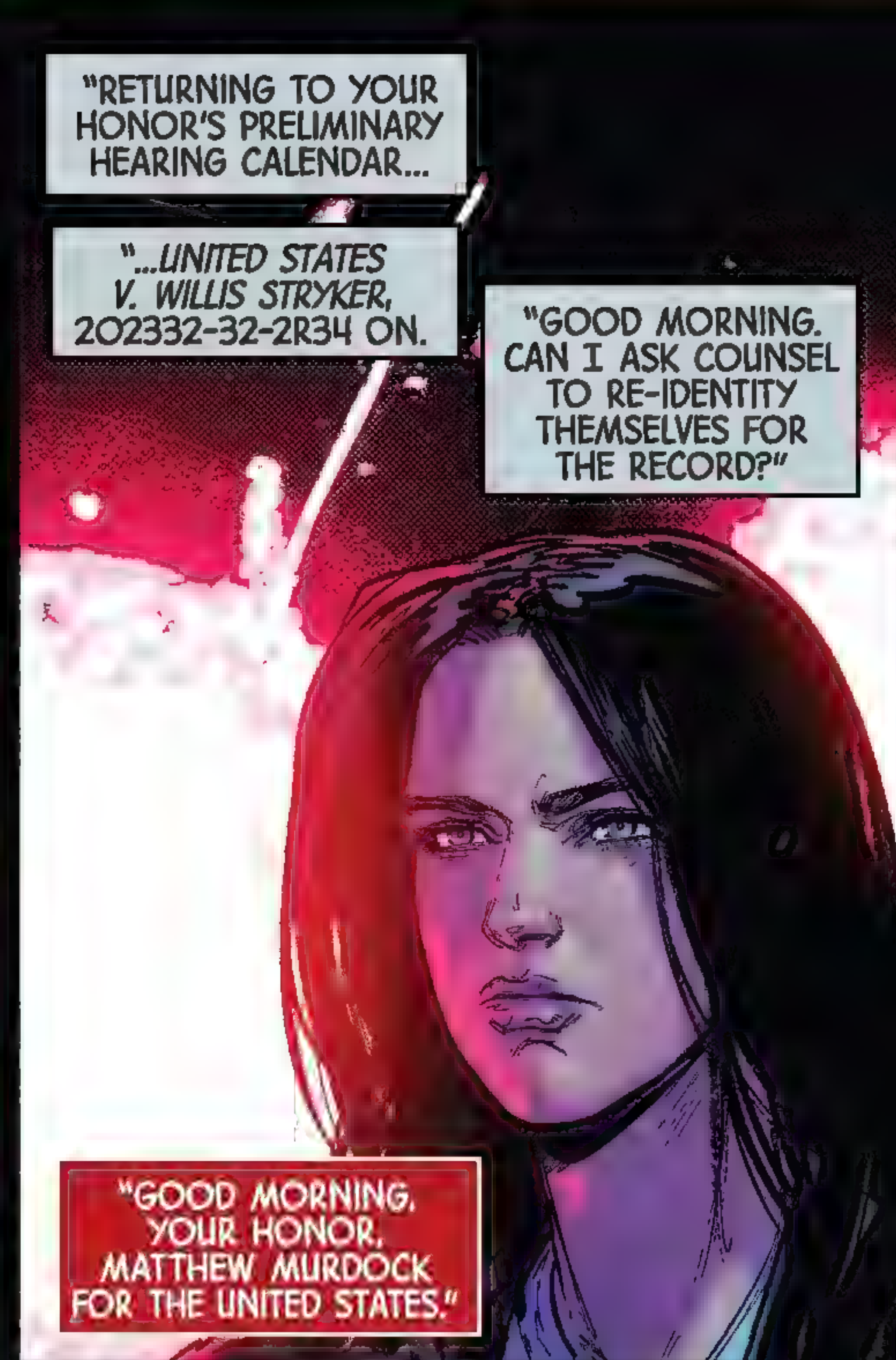
WE  
CAPTURED  
HIM ON THE  
RUN.

HE'LL  
WALK.



PFT!  
TRUST  
ME.

I KNOW  
A LITTLE THING  
OR TWO ABOUT  
HOW THE LAW  
WORKS.



"RETURNING TO YOUR  
HONOR'S PRELIMINARY  
HEARING CALENDAR..."

"...UNITED STATES  
V. WILLIS STRYKER,  
202332-32-2R34 ON.

"GOOD MORNING.  
CAN I ASK COUNSEL  
TO RE-IDENTIFY  
THEMSELVES FOR  
THE RECORD?"

"GOOD MORNING,  
YOUR HONOR,  
MATTHEW MURDOCK  
FOR THE UNITED STATES."



# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

ARTIST RENDERINGS COURTESY OF THE PULSE

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YOUR HONOR--  
THIS MAN, WILLIS  
STRYKER, IS A  
VICTIM.

LOOK  
AT HIM!

A VICTIM  
OF VIOLENT  
CIRCUMSTANCE  
EXACERBATED BY THE  
VIRUS OF VIGILANTISM  
THAT STRANGLES THIS  
CITY *HALF TO DEATH*  
ON A NIGHTLY  
BASIS!

YOUR  
HONOR...



I DO  
BELIEVE HE'S  
TALKING  
ABOUT US.

HE'S  
TALKING ABOUT  
*YOU*, DANNY.

SHH.



HE HAS BEEN  
SAVAGELY BEATEN  
BY MURDEROUS,  
THUG-LIKE  
VIGILANTES.

THEY HAVE  
ADMITTED, IN THE  
PRESS, TO STALKING  
AND PREYING  
ON HIM.



THEY HAVE  
*ADMITTED* TO  
TARGETING  
HIM.

THEY  
ARE IN COURT  
TODAY TO  
INTIMIDATE  
HIM.

DOESN'T  
MR. STRYKER  
DESERVE ALL THE  
SAME RIGHTS AS  
THE REST OF  
US?



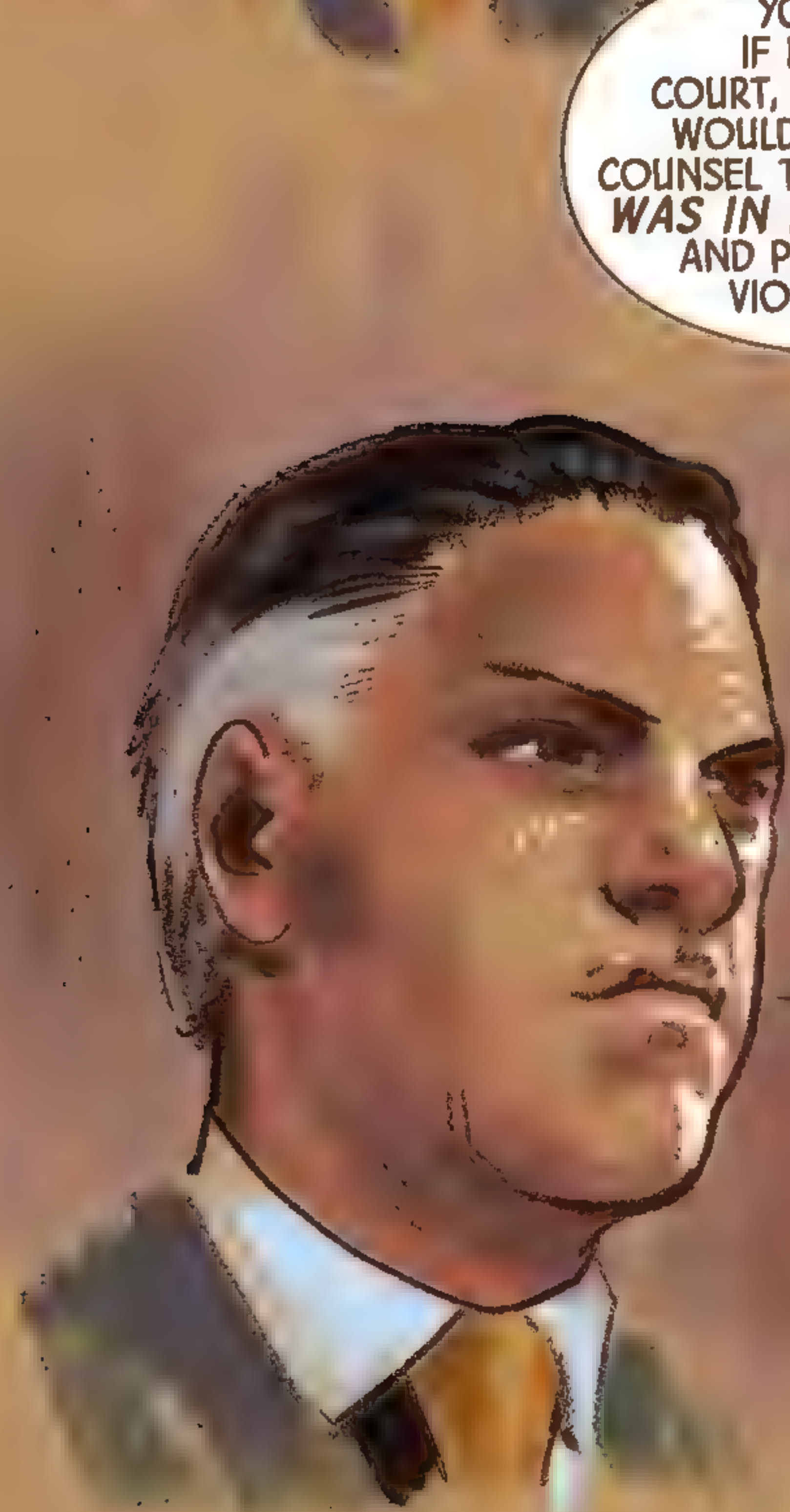




HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF, ONE DAY, ONE OF THOSE SPIDER-MANS OR DAREDEVILS OR ONE OF THOSE OUT-OF-CONTROL MUTANTS DECIDED TO TARGET **YOU**?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF LUKE CAGE THREW A CAR AT YOU BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LIKE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

YOUR HONOR, YOU **MUST** LET THIS MAN SEE HIS DAY IN COURT.



YOUR HONOR, IF IT PLEASE THE COURT, THE PROSECUTION WOULD LIKE TO REMIND COUNSEL THAT MISTER STRYKER **WAS IN POLICE CUSTODY** AND PARTICIPATED IN A VIOLENT ESCAPE.

MR. CAGE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE ABLE TO SERVE THE IMMEDIATE PUBLIC INTEREST BY STOPPING HIM BEFORE--

YES! LET'S TALK ABOUT THE **DEFENDERS**.

MY CLIENT DID NOT ESCAPE CUSTODY.

MY CLIENT ESCAPED THE MURDEROUS RAMPAGE OF **FRANK CASTLE**.

**FRANK CASTLE** ESCAPED.

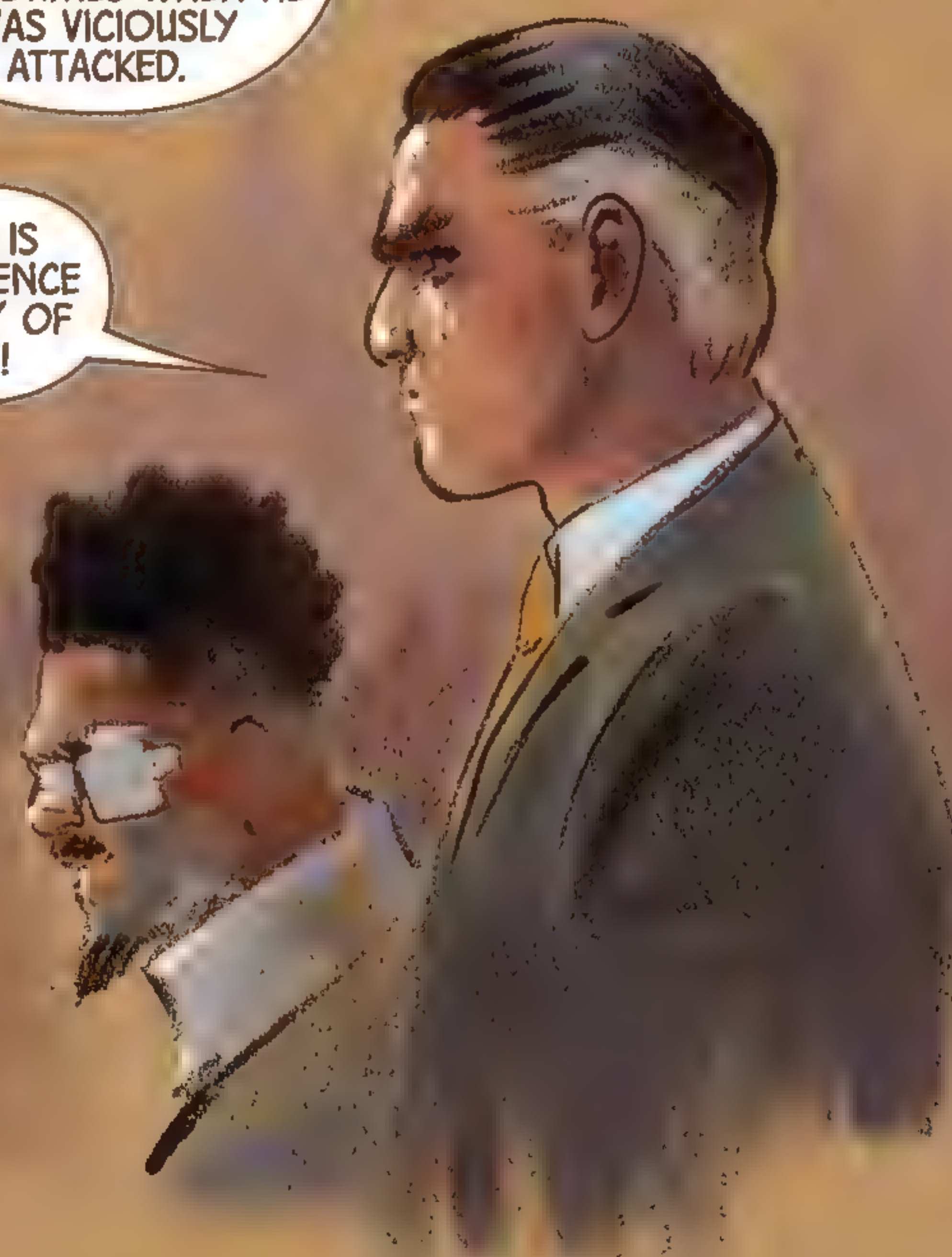
MR. STRYKER **RAN FOR HIS LIFE** AND WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SURRENDER TO AUTHORITIES WHEN HE WAS VICIOUSLY ATTACKED.

HE'S A MURDERING DRUG DEALER AND HE **SHOT A WOMAN THAT NIGHT!**

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF **ANY** OF THAT!

SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL!

LUKE---





THERE  
WILL BE  
ORDER!

AND THESE  
**DEFENDERS** ARE  
**STILL** DESPERATELY TRYING  
TO PIN ANYTHING AND  
EVERYTHING ON  
HIM.

BECAUSE IF  
THEY ARE WRONG,  
OR LYING, THEN THAT  
IS BAD FOR THEIR  
BUSINESS.

MY CLIENT  
WAS BEING CARTED  
AWAY TO JAIL, HELD WITHOUT  
TRIAL, BECAUSE FOR SOME  
REASON, S.H.I.E.L.D. MADE IT  
LEGAL FOR THIS GOVERNMENT  
TO HOLD ANYONE BORN WITH  
SPECIAL POWERS WITHOUT  
PROPER DUE PROCESS.

BUT S.H.I.E.L.D.  
IS NO MORE, AND I SAY  
IT IS THIS COURT'S IMMEDIATE  
AND HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO  
PUT THE DAYS OF TREATING  
OUR POWERED CIVILIANS LIKE  
SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS IN  
THE HISTORY BOOKS.

WILLIS STRYKER  
IS A VICTIM OF VIOLENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE  
OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT!

I CAN ONLY  
HOPE TO THE GREAT  
GOD ABOVE THAT THIS CASE  
OPENS A DEEP INVESTIGATION  
INTO HOW THIS CITY  
AND STATE HANDLES  
VIGILANTISM!

AFTER CAREFUL  
REVIEW OF THE NOTES  
AS WELL AS REVIEWING, AT  
LENGTH, THE TRANSCRIPTS  
THAT WERE SUBMITTED, I DO  
BELIEVE THE COMMONWEALTH  
HAS MET A *PRIMA FACIE*  
BURDEN ON THE CHARGES AS  
LISTED IN THE CRIMINAL  
COMPLAINTS.

OBVIOUSLY,  
THESE CASES WILL,  
IN FACT, MOVE  
FORWARD.

WE'RE  
GOING TO  
TRIAL.

THE BAIL  
**WILL** REMAIN  
AS SET.

THANK  
YOU, YOUR  
HONOR.

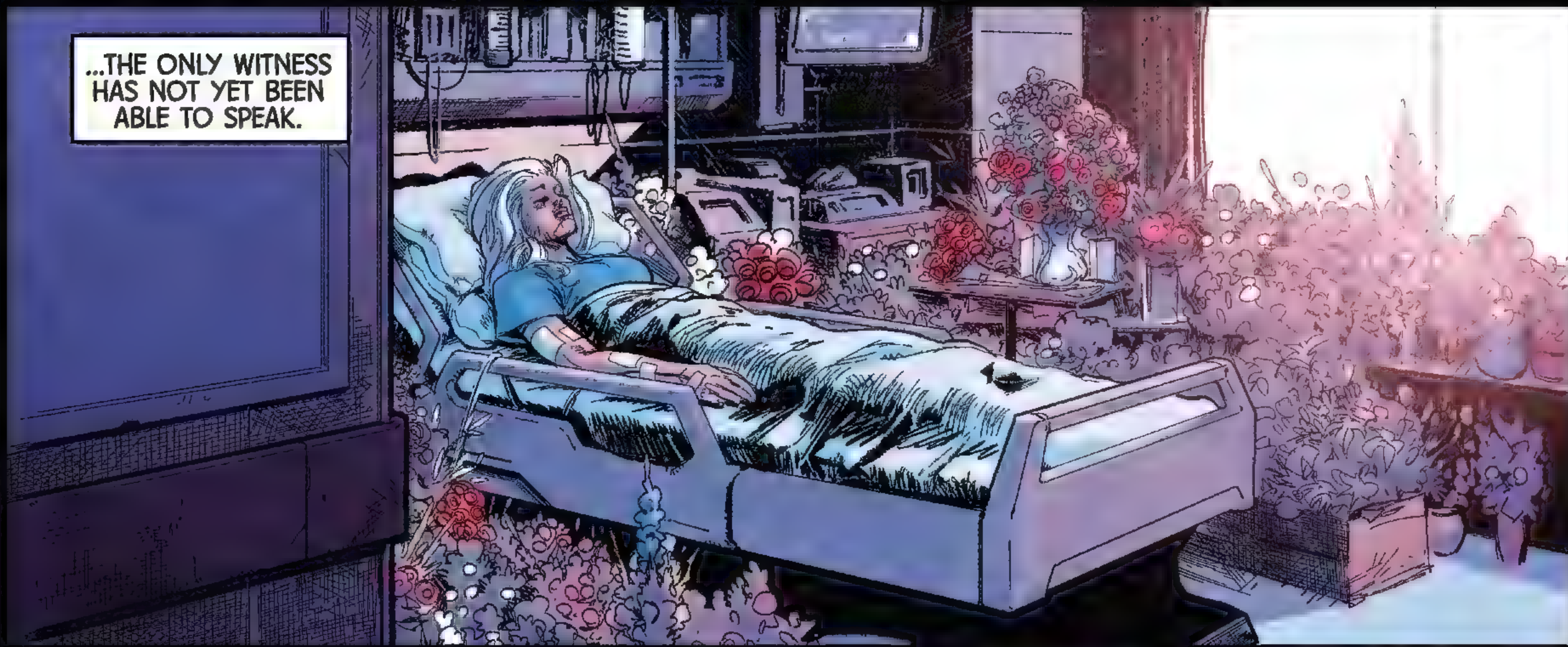
**YOUR  
HONOR!**

MR. STRYKER'S  
PASSPORT WILL  
REMAIN CONFISCATED  
AS PART OF A BAIL  
ARRANGEMENT.

COURT IS  
NOW DISMISSED  
AS WE TAKE CARE  
OF SOME MINOR  
PAPERWORK...

HE HASN'T BEEN CHARGED  
WITH THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF  
**THE BLACK CAT** BECAUSE...





...THE ONLY WITNESS  
HAS NOT YET BEEN  
ABLE TO SPEAK.



HE'S  
BACK.  
RIGHT  
ON TIME.  
TENACIOUS.  
ANNOYING.



OFFICERS,  
BEN URICH.  
INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORTER FOR THE  
DAILY BUGLE.  
DOT  
COM.  
IS SHE  
AWAKE?  
EVERY TIME,  
YOU GONNA SAY  
YOUR NAME LIKE  
THAT?  
JUST WANT  
TO KEEP EVERYTHING  
ON THE UP AND UP.  
I MEAN,  
EVERY DAY?  
WE REMEMBER.  
IS THE  
BLACK CAT  
AWAKE?

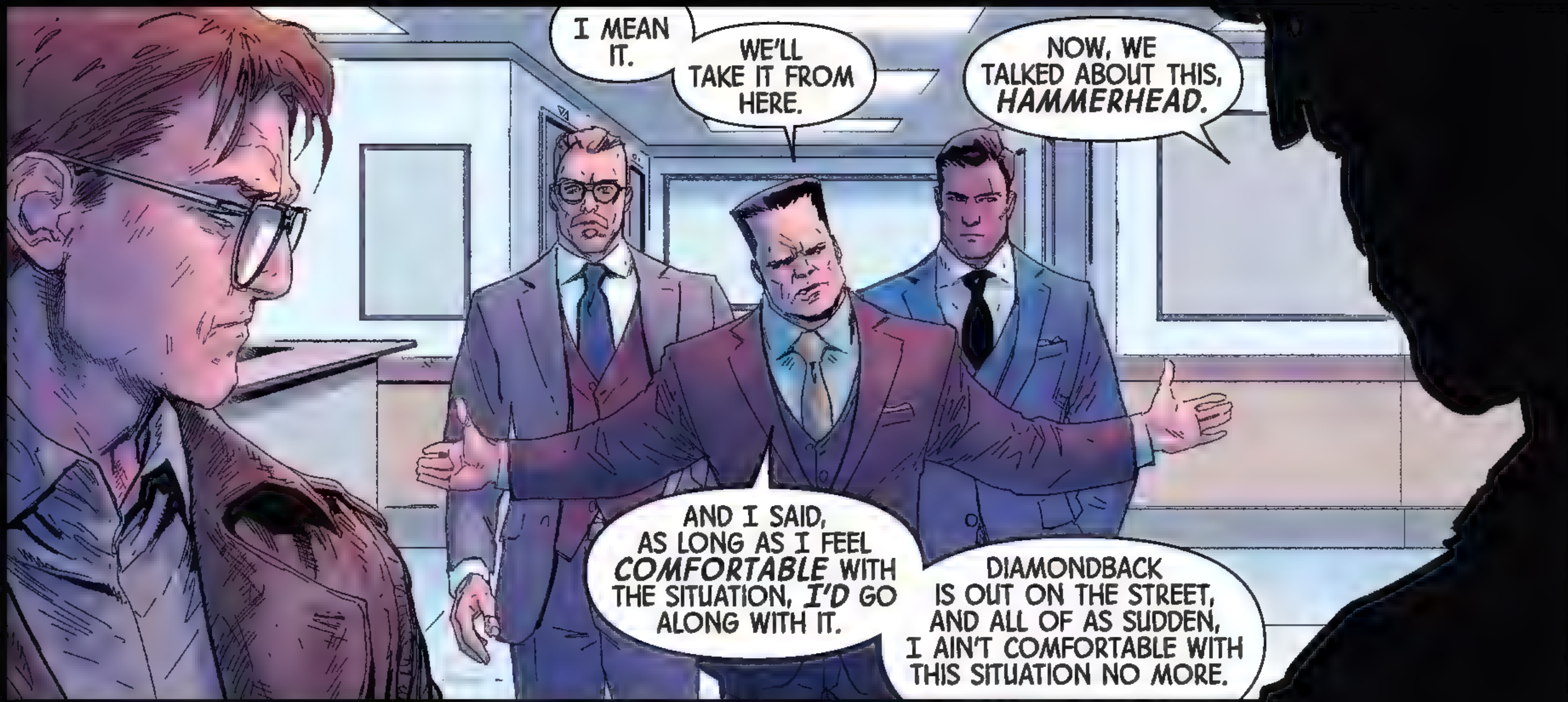


YOU DON'T FEEL WEIRD  
SAYING YOUR NAME  
LIKE THAT?  
DID SHE  
COMMENT ON  
DIAMONDBACK FINALLY  
MAKING BAIL?  
WHEN  
DID THIS  
HAPPEN?  
TEN  
MINUTES  
AGO.



WELL, NO,  
SHE DIDN'T.  
SO MUCH FOR  
THIS BEING A CUSH  
ASSIGNMENT.  
HA!  
MAN,  
DIAMONDBACK  
MADE BAIL?  
I GUESS  
WE KNOW WHAT  
THE PUNISHER'S  
DOING TONIGHT.  
WE'LL  
TAKE IT  
FROM HERE,  
BOYS!





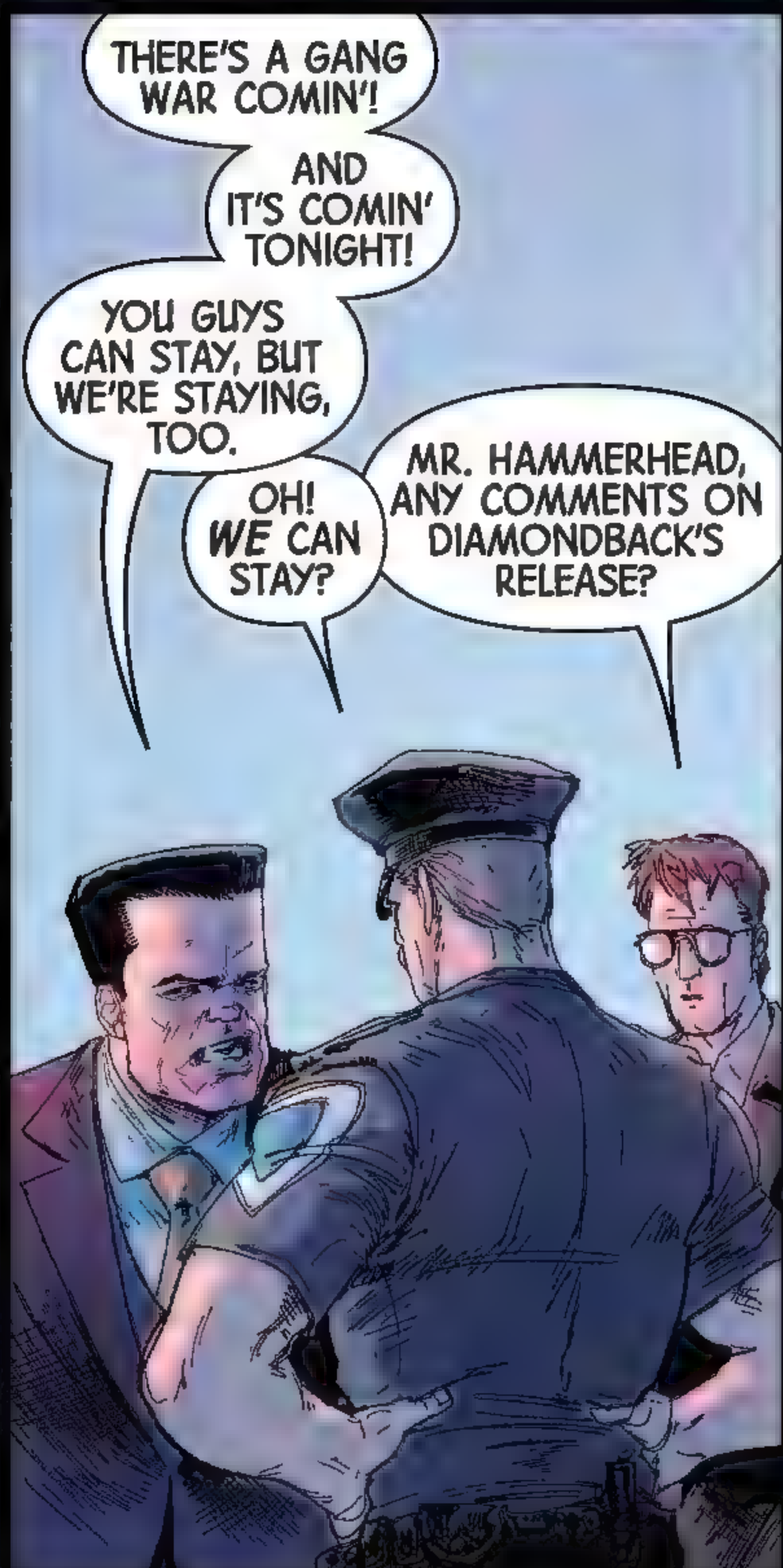
I MEAN IT.

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

NOW, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS, HAMMERHEAD.

AND I SAID, AS LONG AS I FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THE SITUATION, I'D GO ALONG WITH IT.

DIAMONDBACK IS OUT ON THE STREET, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, I AIN'T COMFORTABLE WITH THIS SITUATION NO MORE.



THERE'S A GANG WAR COMIN'!

AND IT'S COMIN' TONIGHT!

YOU GUYS CAN STAY, BUT WE'RE STAYING, TOO.

OH! WE CAN STAY?

MR. HAMMERHEAD, ANY COMMENTS ON DIAMONDBACK'S RELEASE?



YEAH, THIS WHOLE TOWN'S @#\$%^&\*!!

#\$%^&\*^#\$% @#\$%^&\*!!

EXPLETIVE DELETED.

GOT IT.



I'D GO HOME, URICH. DIAMONDBACK IS FREE AND AIN'T NO ONE SAFE.

THIS IS THE LAST PLACE I'D BE.

"AND SO, HERE WE ARE... IN A KINGPIN WAR."



AND ME WITHOUT MY TOMMY GUN.

I KNOW I SAID I'D NEVER CALL IN THIS PARTICULAR FAVOR, AND I REALLY MEANT IT WHEN I SAID SO...

BUT I THOUGHT, THIS--THIS IS CRAZY-PANTS.

AND WHEN I THINK CRAZY-PANTS...



...I THINK

# DEADPOOL

AWWW,  
YOU MAKE MY  
TINGLE-MAKER  
ALL TINGLY.

OKAY, DEAL  
TIME, MISS JONES:  
YOU MARRY ME AND  
I'LL BE YOUR  
SLAVEBOY.

I'M  
ALREADY  
MARRIED.

HOW ABOUT  
YOU AND LUKE  
CAGE **BOTH**  
MARRY ME  
AND--?

GANG  
WAR.

CRAZY-  
PANTS GANG  
WAR.

HELP  
US AND YOU  
AND I ARE  
SQUARE.

ROB LOWE  
VOICE: THAT IS  
**LITERALLY** THE  
BEST OFFER I  
HAVE HAD IN  
THE LAST 19  
PAGES.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES  
ALIAS







OH,  
HI.

THAT  
LAWYER IS  
*GOOD.*

HE'S THE  
BEST.

YOU CALLED  
IT--I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND THESE  
DEFENDERS.

I SHOWED  
THEM--I SHOWED  
THEM I HAVE THE BALLS  
TO WALK RIGHT UP TO THEIR  
FRONT DOOR AND BLOW  
THEIR ASSES AWAY.

AND  
THEY DIDN'T  
*FLINCH.*



I TOLD YOU,  
THAT DOES NOT  
WORK WITH  
THEIR KIND.

IT  
NEVER  
HAS.

I GAVE YOU  
THAT INFORMATION  
FOR A MORE  
SUBTLE PLAY.

I KNOW I  
MADE MORE NOISE  
THAN YOU WANTED,  
BUT--BUT I NEEDED  
TO PLANT MY  
FLAG.



NO, NO. THE NOISE IS  
FANTASTIC.

IT KEEPS  
EVERYONE  
BUSY.

BUT YOU  
*DO* NEED TO  
TIGHTEN THE ENDS  
NOW. BOTTLE  
IT UP.

THERE ARE  
NEW PLAYERS  
COMING IN AT EVERY  
TURN. A LITTLE CHAOS  
IS GOOD. TOO MUCH  
AND THIS CAN ALL  
FALL APART  
QUICKLY...

NEW  
PLAYERS?

ELEKTRA  
NATCHIOS IS IN  
NEW YORK CITY  
FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN  
YEARS.

DOESN'T  
MEAN IT HAS  
ANYTHING TO  
DO WITH  
US...



UH-HUH.

HOW ARE  
*YOU* FEELING?

SECOND  
WIND. I'M--I'M  
READY TO TAKE  
IT *ALL* ON.

GOOD. I  
TOLD YOU, THERE  
WOULD BE  
ADJUSTMENTS.

FOR  
*BOTH* OF  
US...

I, UH, I  
COULD USE SOME  
MORE...OF THE  
GOOD STUFF.

I CAN  
MAKE THAT  
HAPPEN.

BUT  
*TELL* ME...



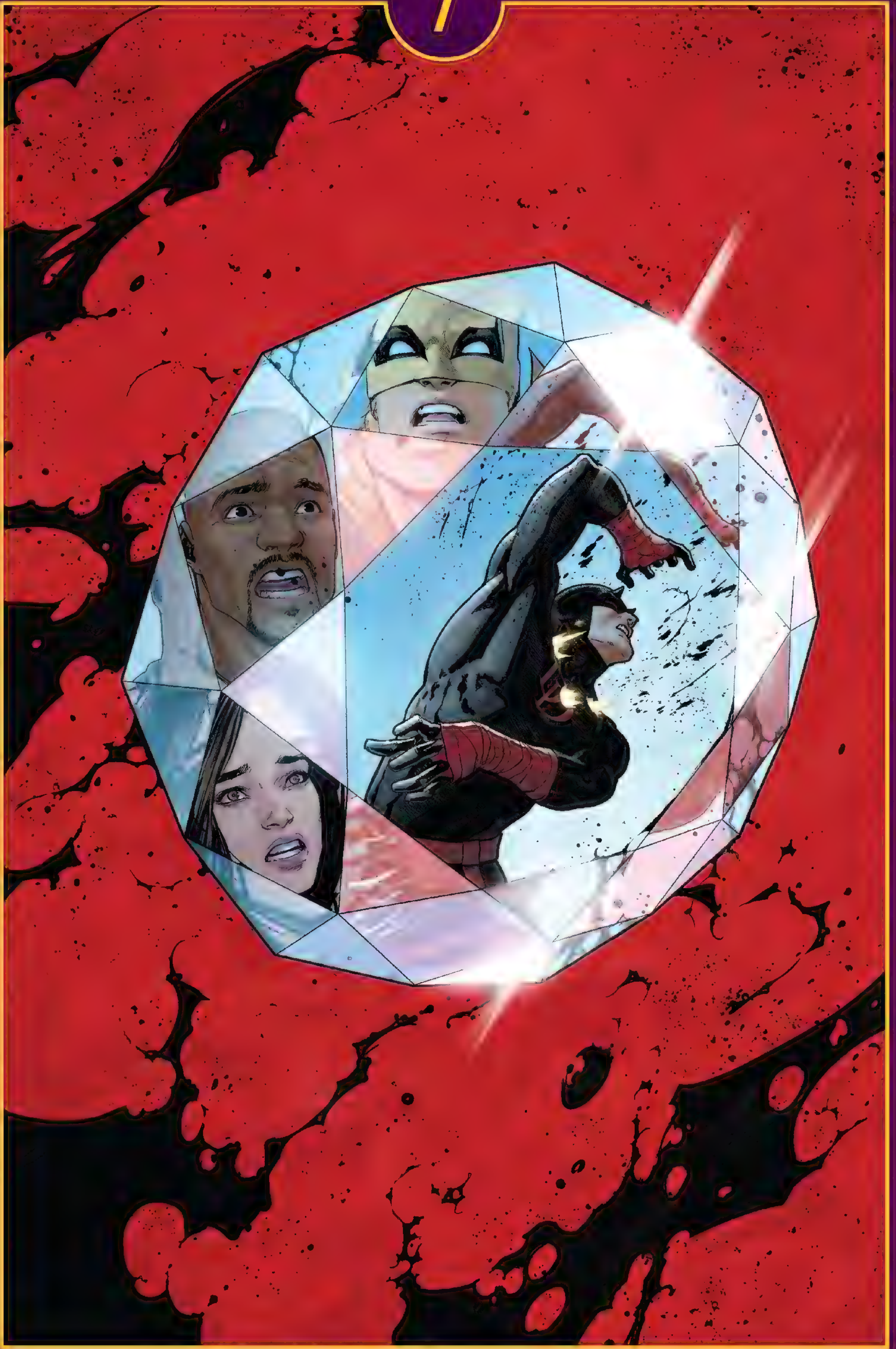
IN PRISON,  
IN COURT, TO  
THE POLICE...

...HAS  
**ANYONE**  
EVEN HINTED AT  
A CONNECTION  
BETWEEN **US?**

DID **ANYONE**  
MENTION THE NAME  
**WILSON FISK?**









# THE DEFENDERS



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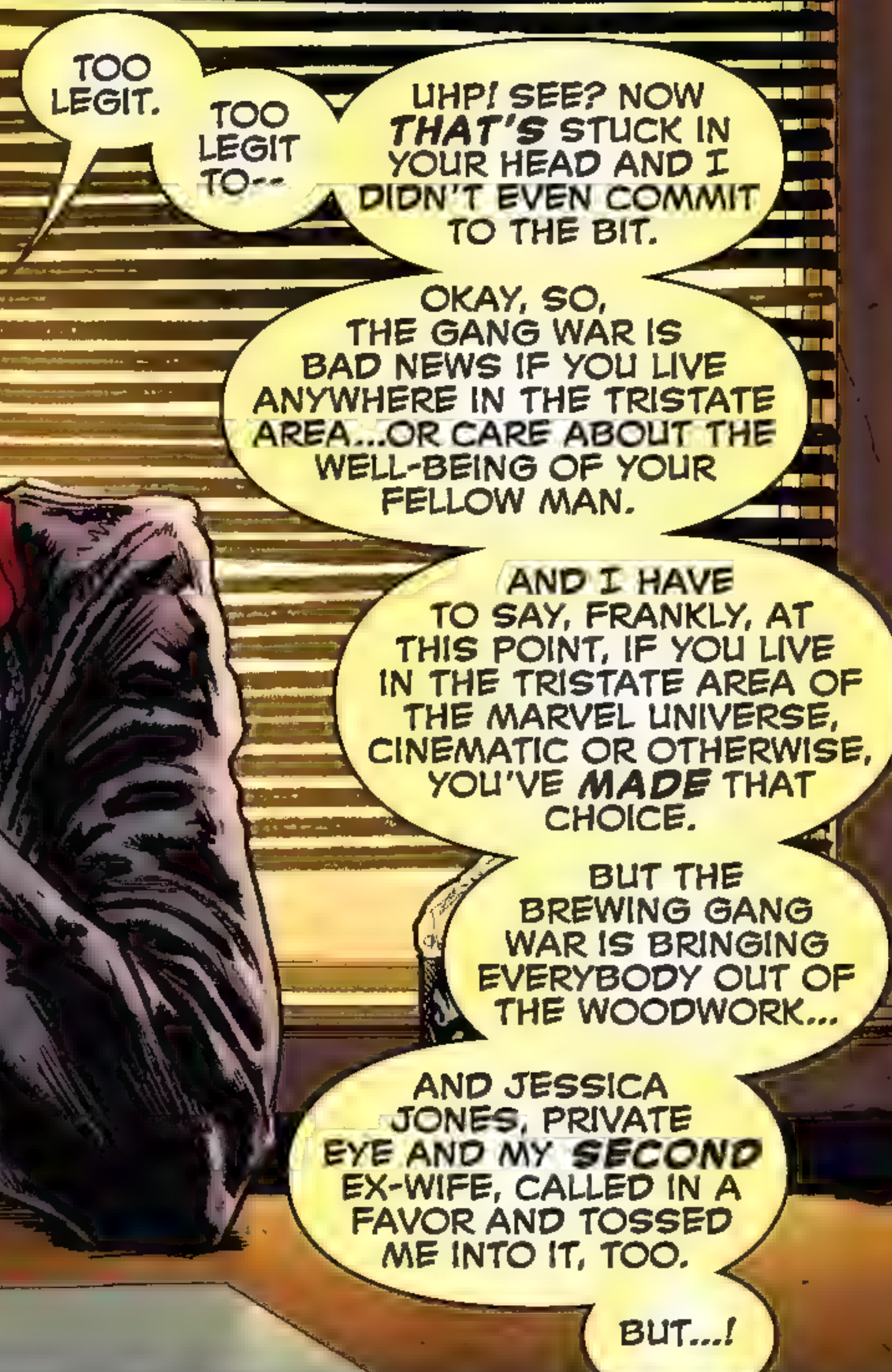




OH!

YOU'RE STILL HERE... SORRY.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT MY OWN UNTOLD ORIGIN STORY.

[illegible]



# DEFENDERS



**BRIAN MICHAEL DIS**  
**LUKE CAGE**

**DAVID MARQUEZ**  
**ACTUALLY DARED DEVIL?**

**COLOR ARTISTS**  
**JUSTIN PONSOR**  
with **PAUL MOUNTS**

**LETTERER**  
**VC's CORY PETIT**  
(DO YOU THINK HE REGRETS HIS CAREER CHOICES RIGHT NOW?)

**COVER ARTISTS**  
**DAVID MARQUEZ & JUSTIN PONSOR**  
**BUT THE REAL COVER IS THE FRIENDS WE MADE ALONG THE WAY**

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**  
**ALANNA SMITH**

**EDITOR**  
**TOM BREVOORT**

**DEADPOOL**

**also DEADPOOL**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
**AXEL ALONSO**

**CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER**  
**JOE QUESADA**

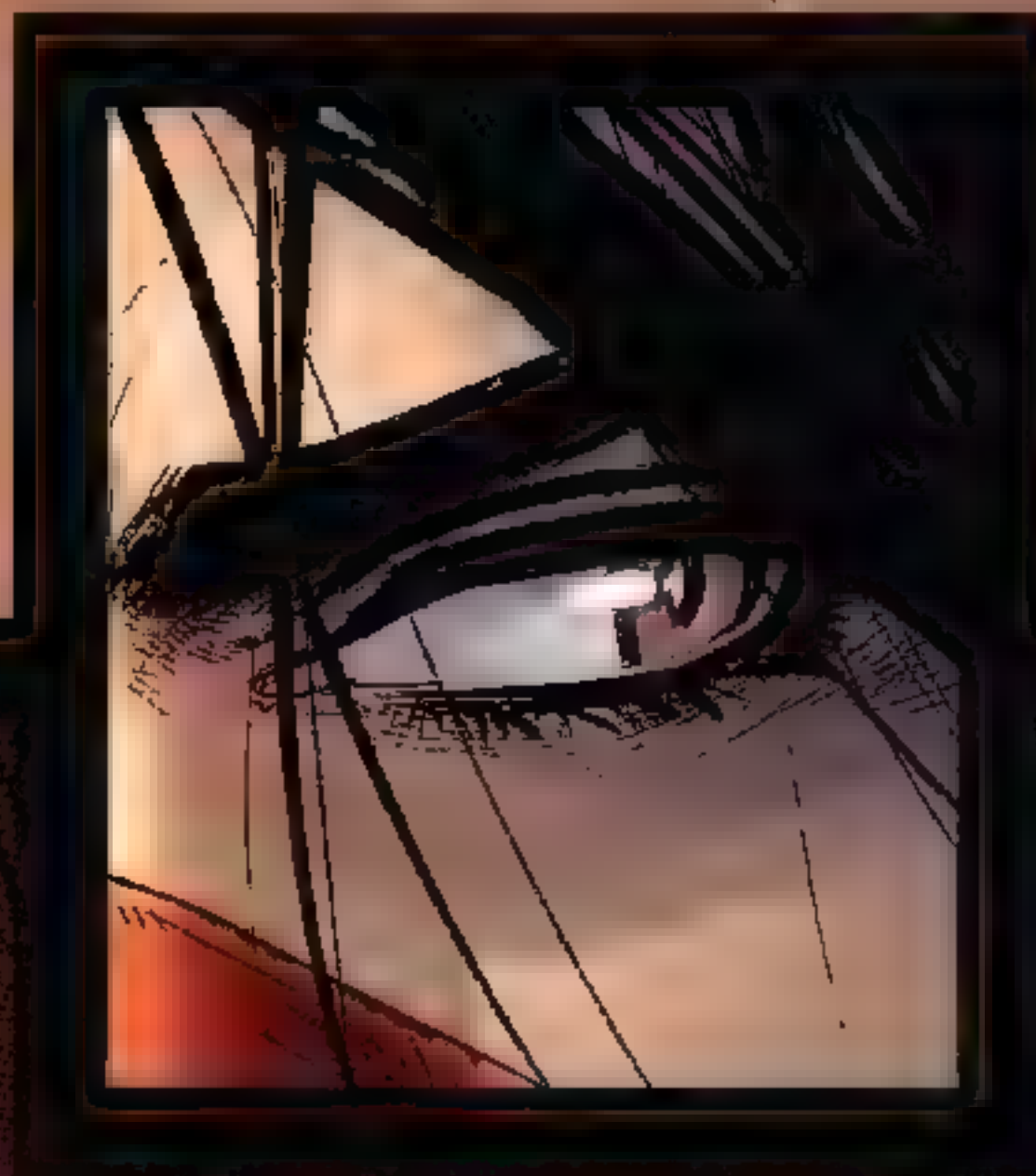
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**WHAT IS THIS???**

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HI, ELEKTRA,  
I'M DANNY.

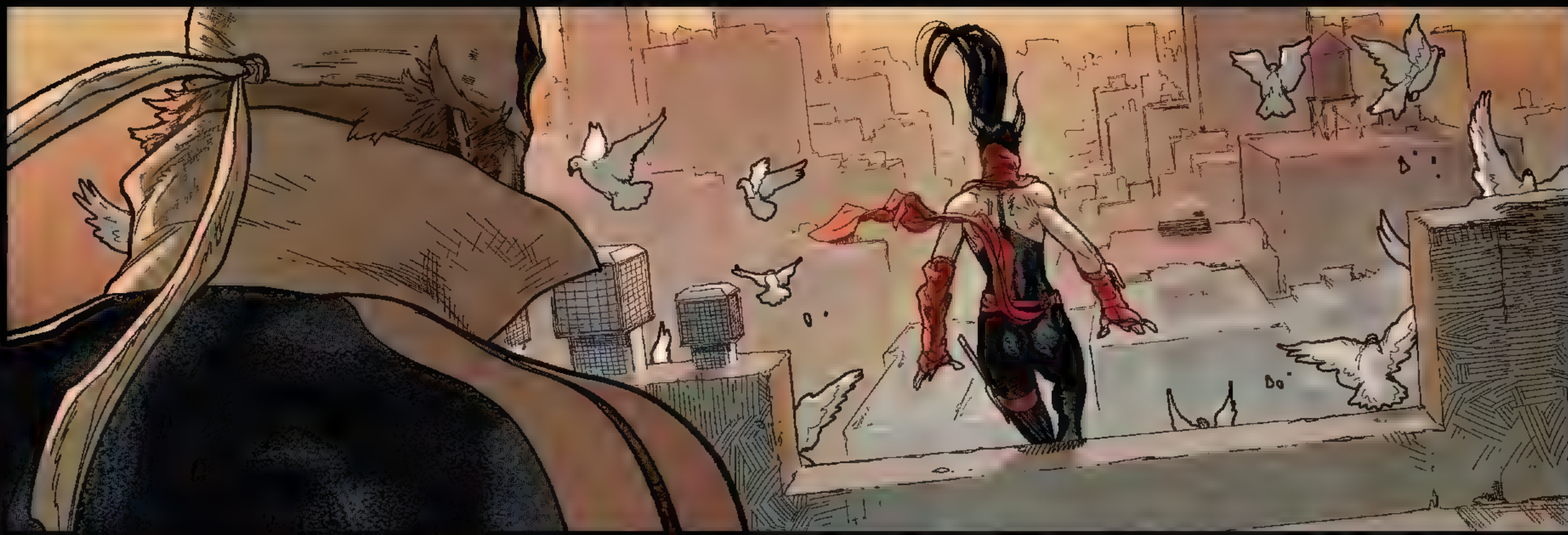
BUT YOU  
CAN CALL ME **THE  
IMMORTAL IRON  
FIST** IF IT MAKES YOU  
FEEL MORE INTIMIDATED  
AND LESS LIKELY TO  
STAB ME WITH YOUR  
STABBERS.



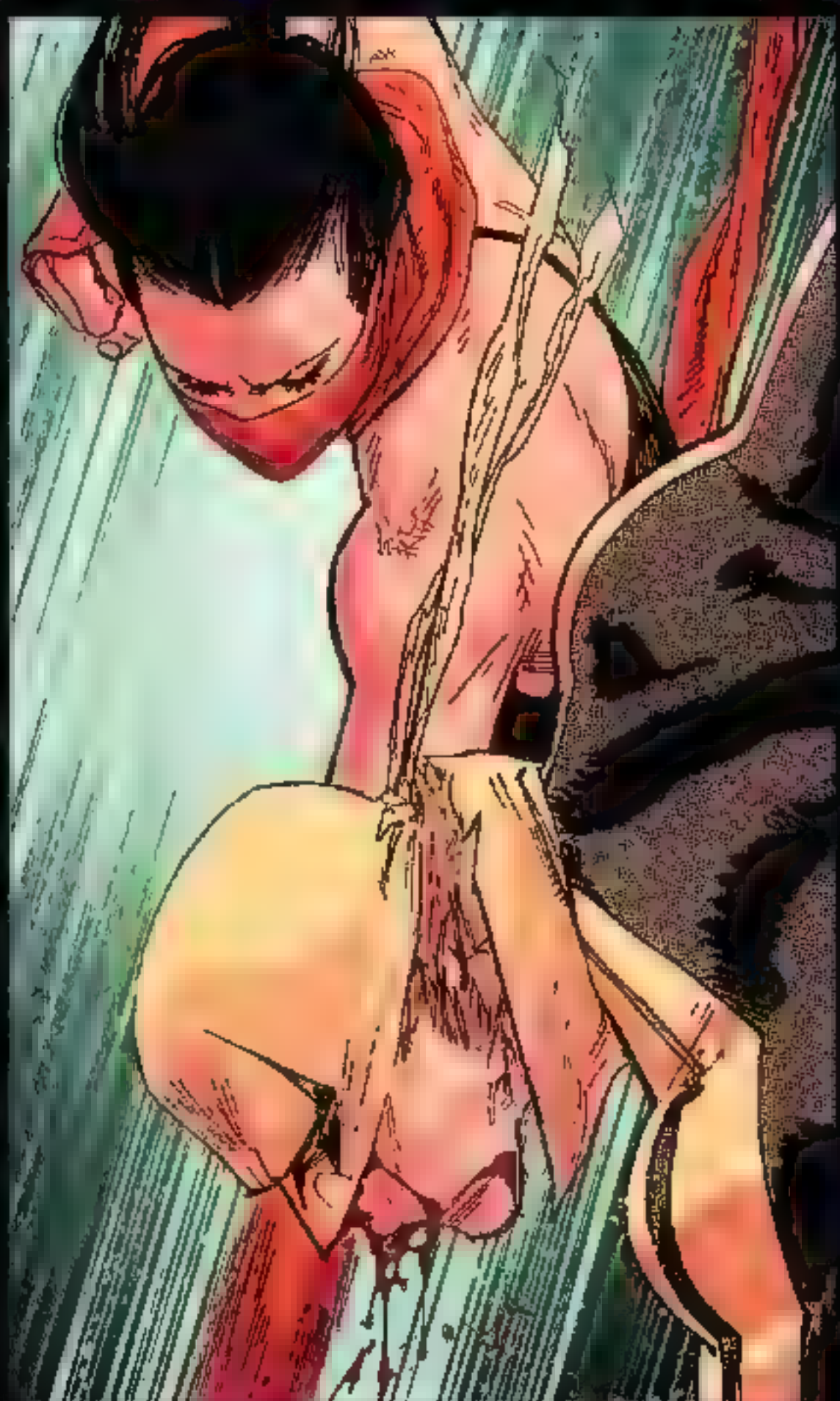
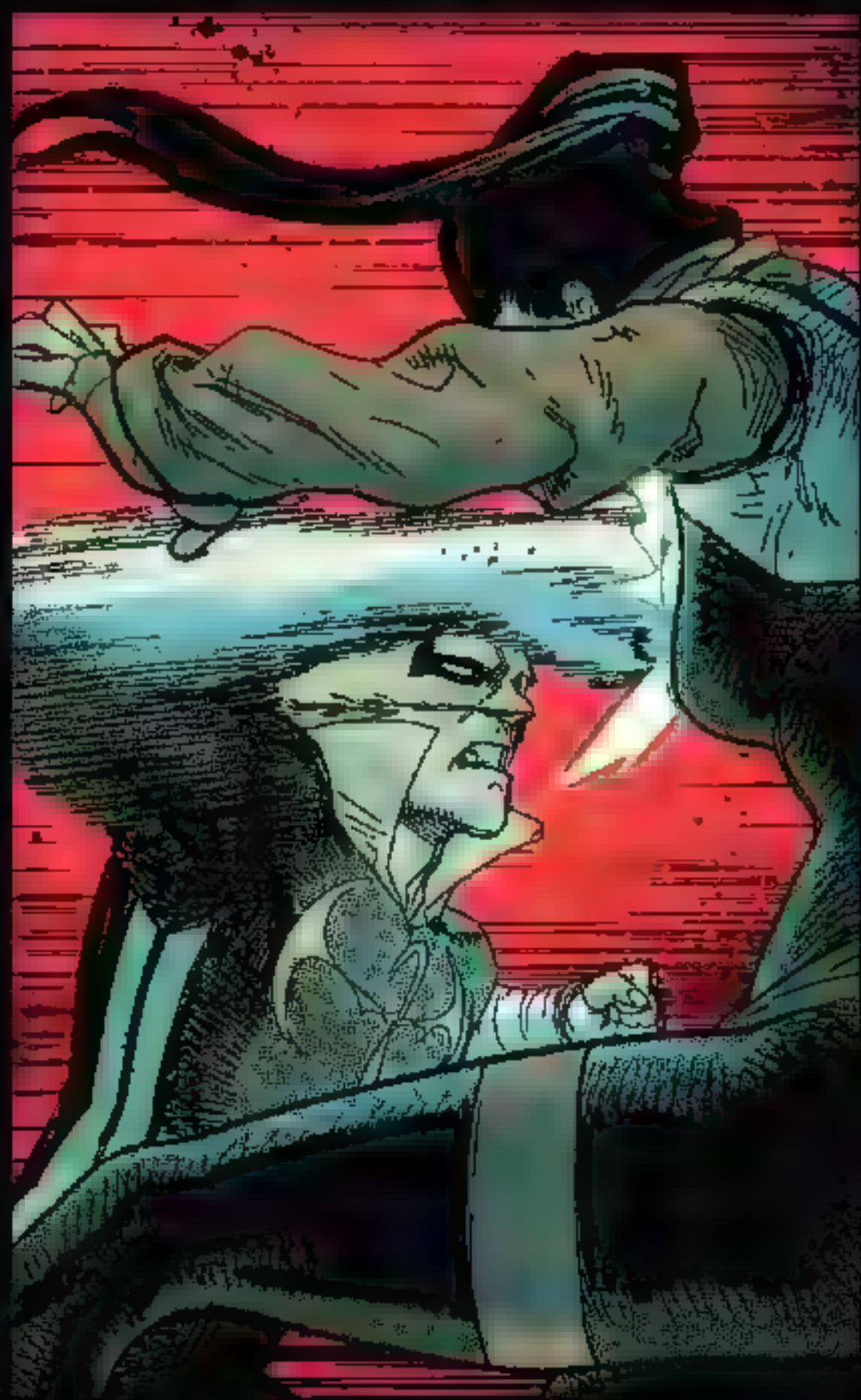
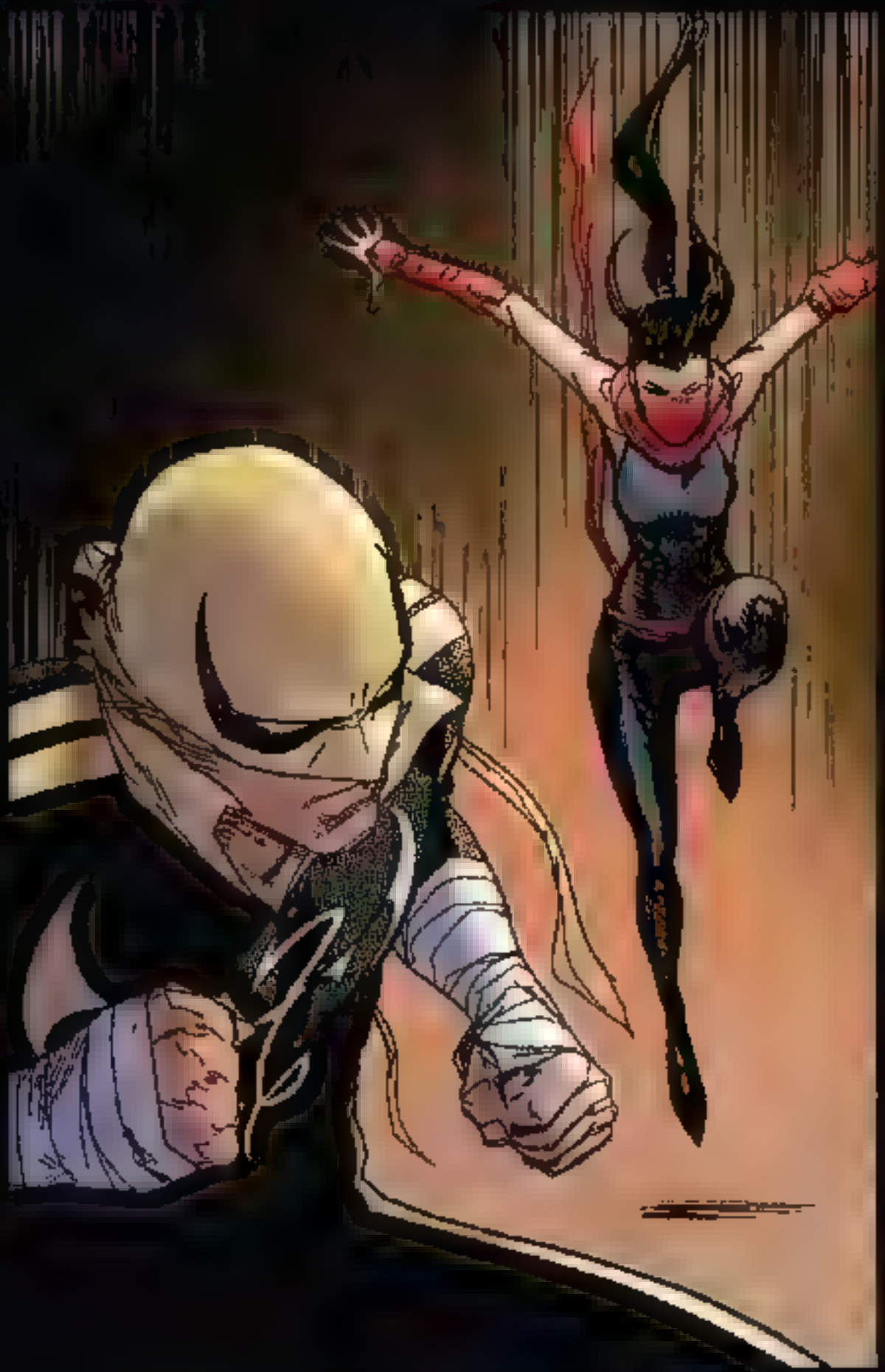
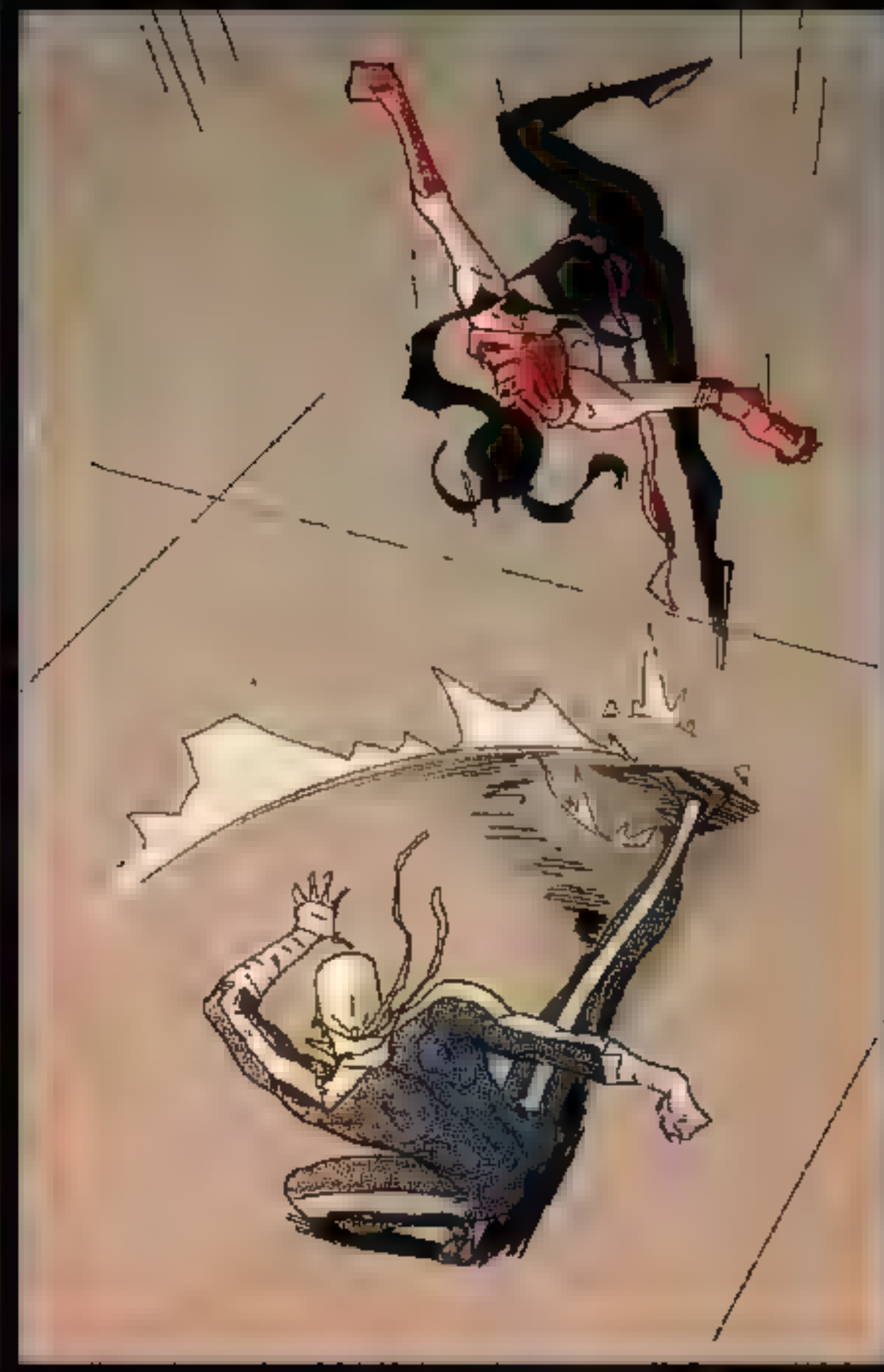
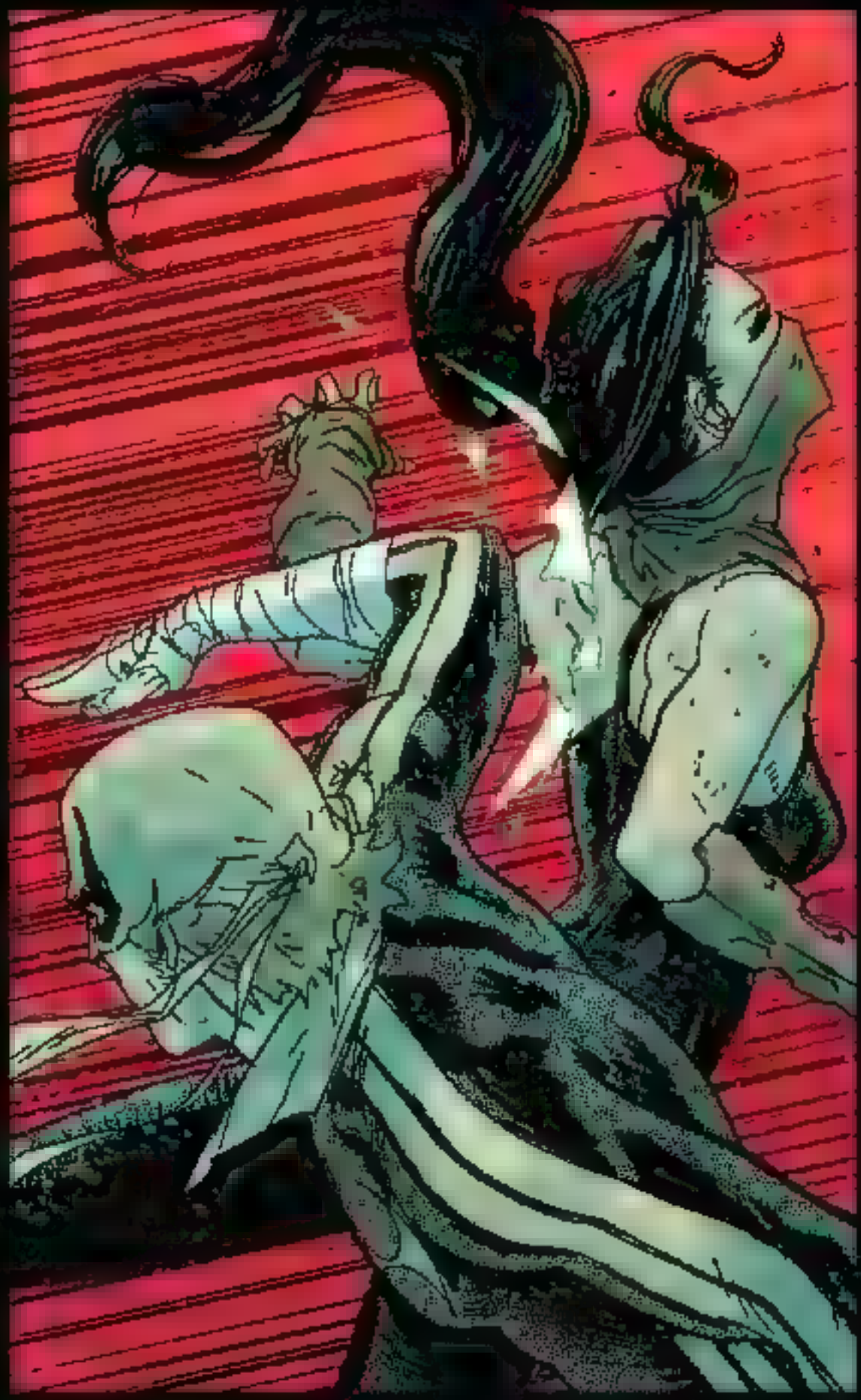
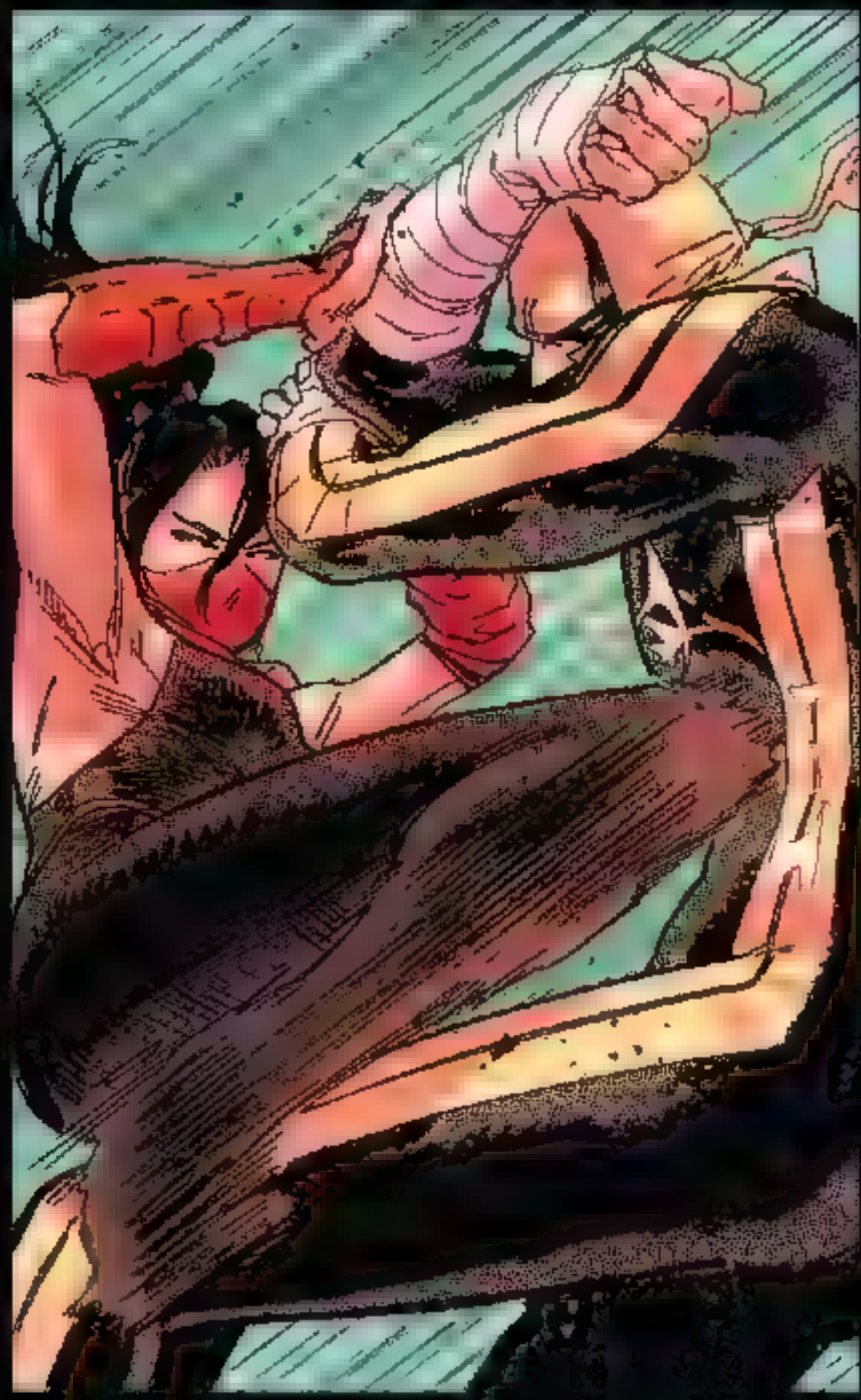
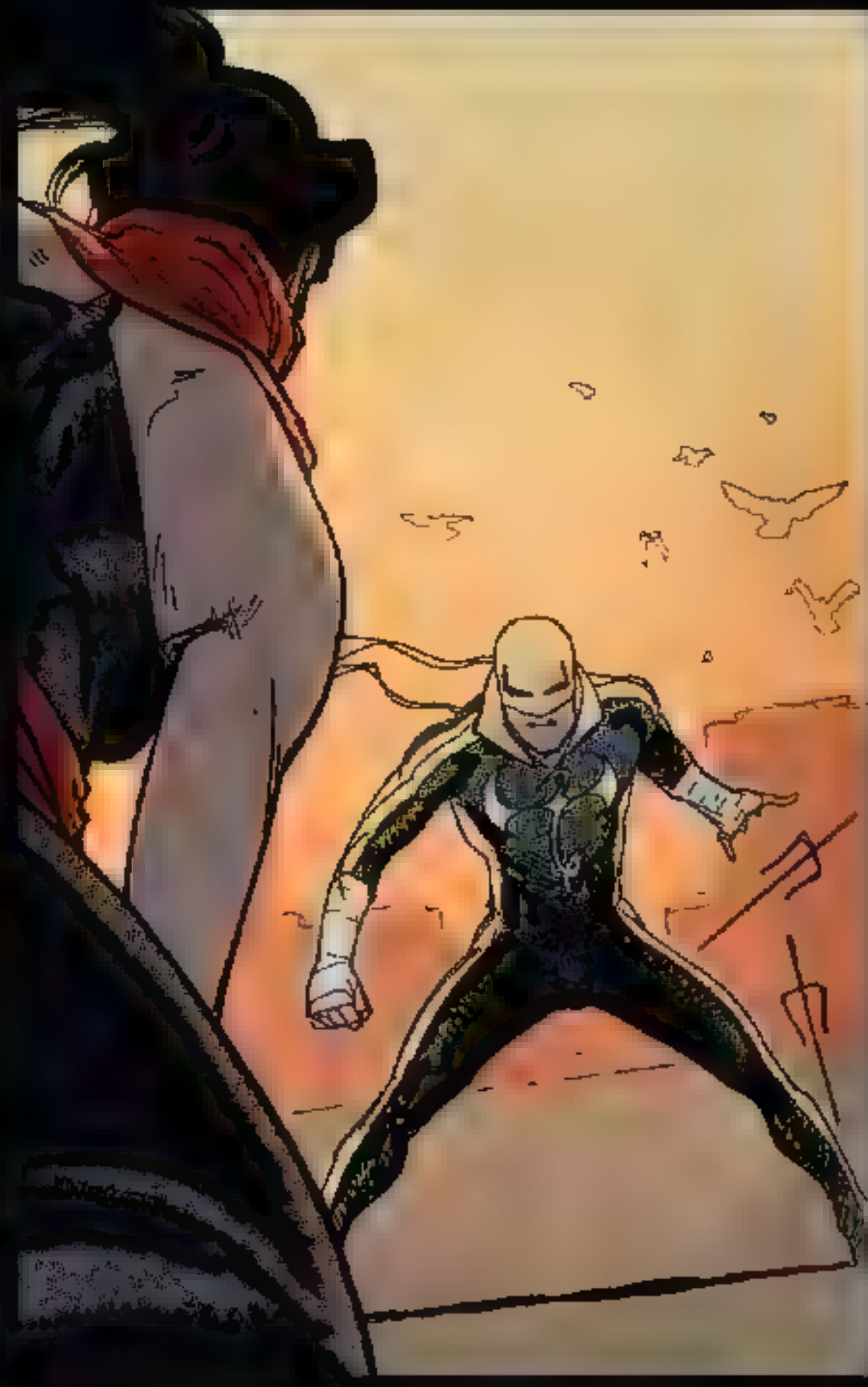
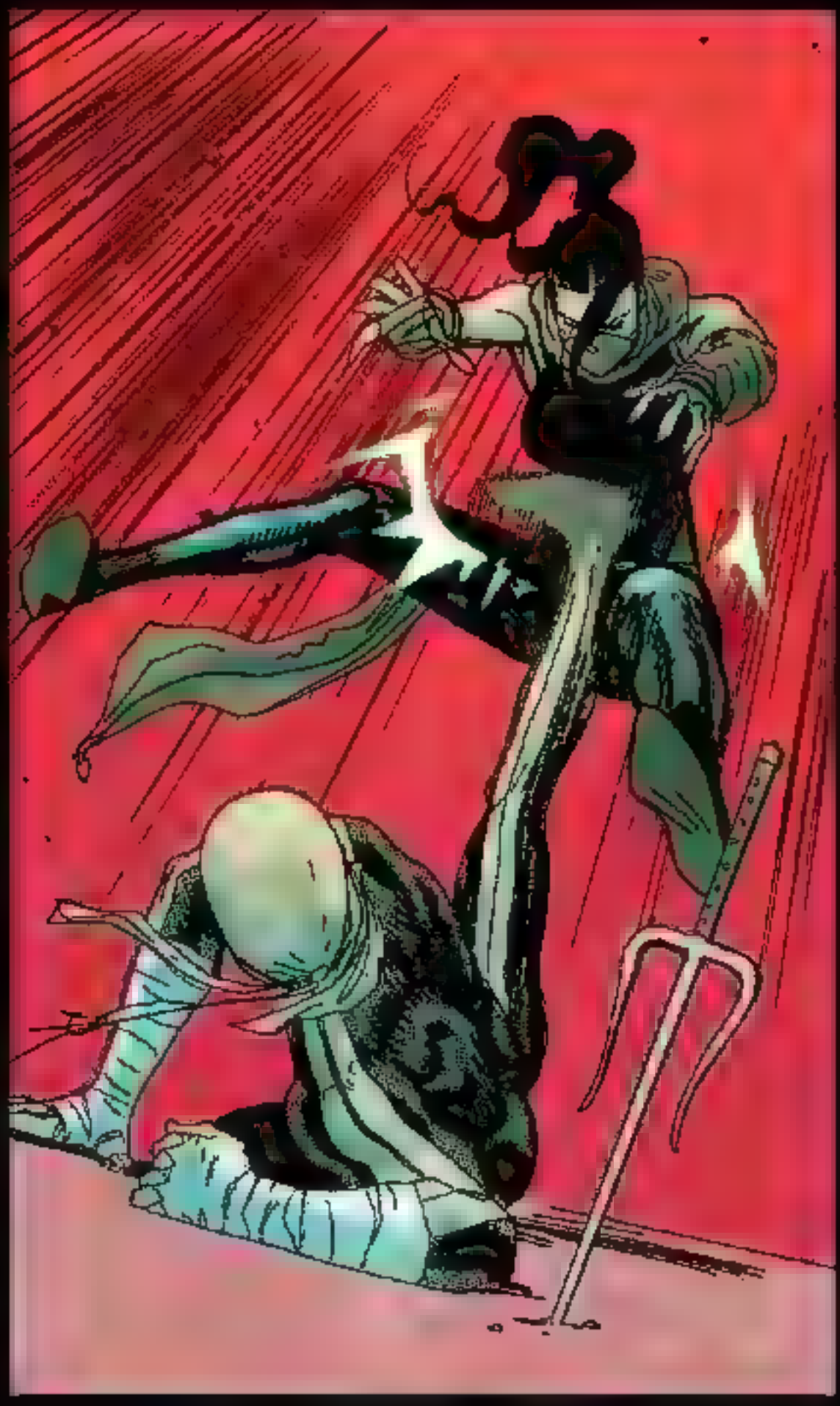
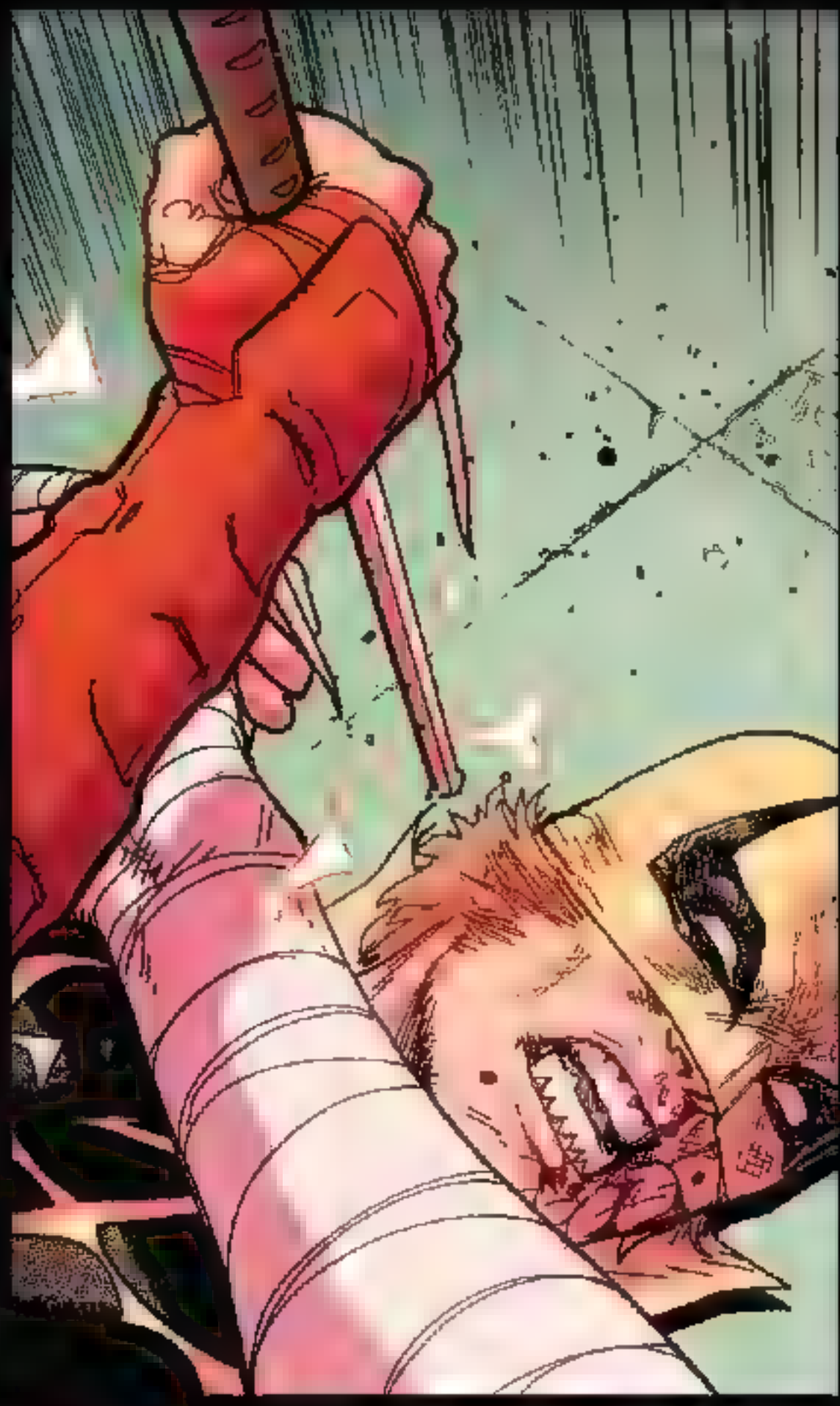




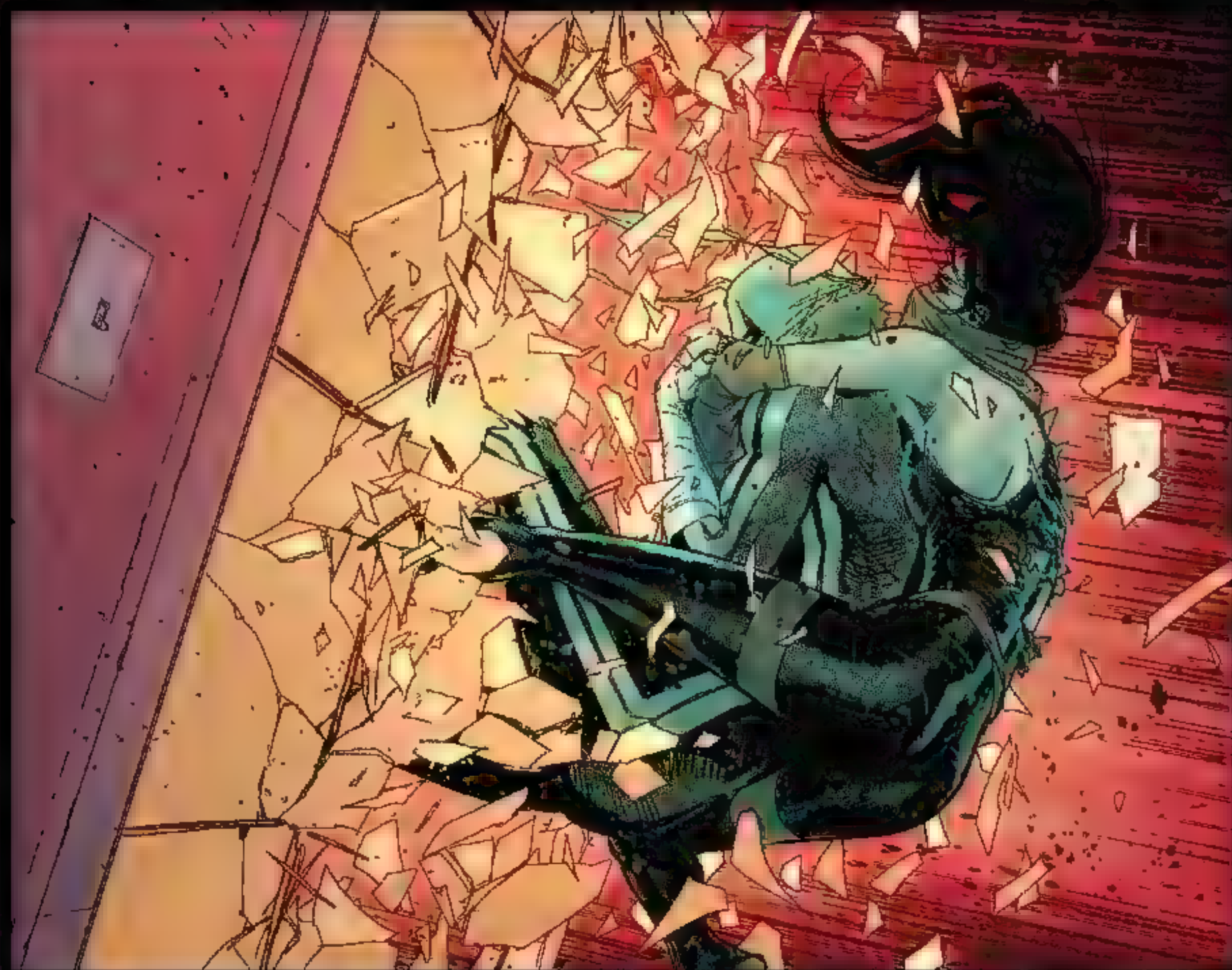




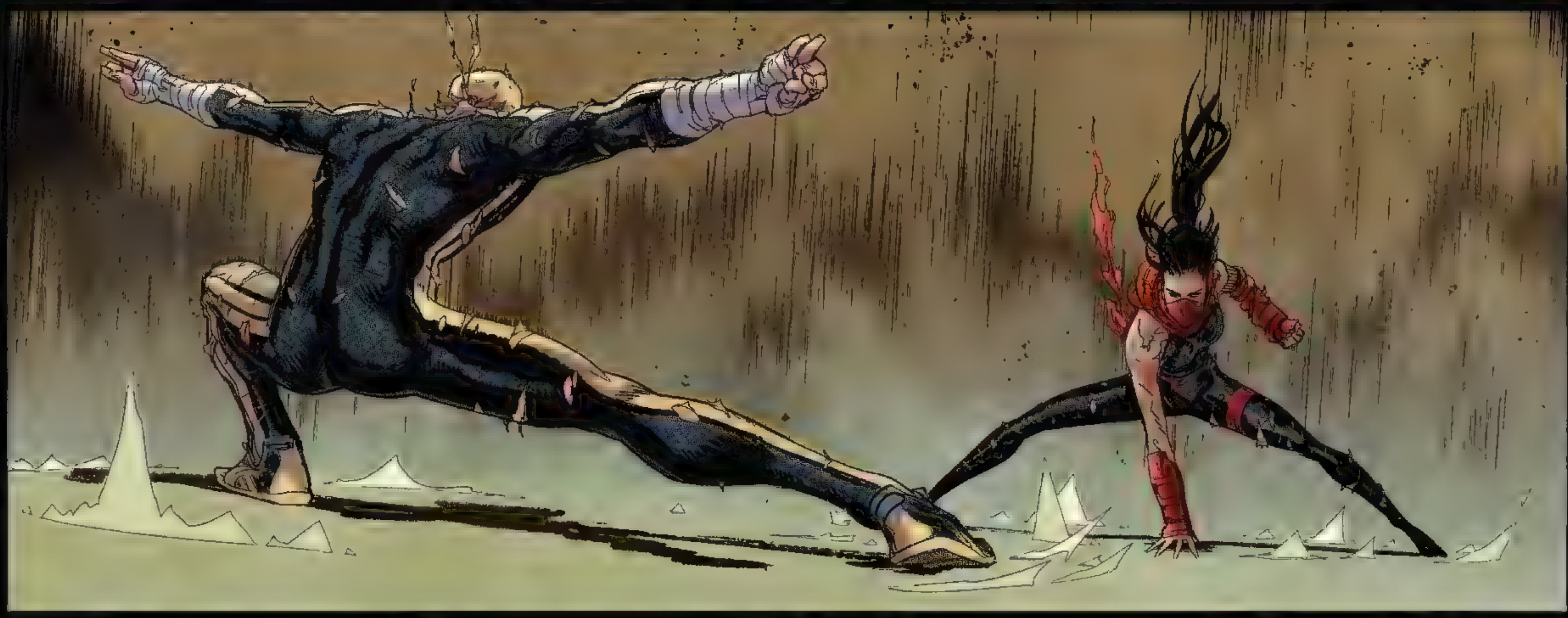
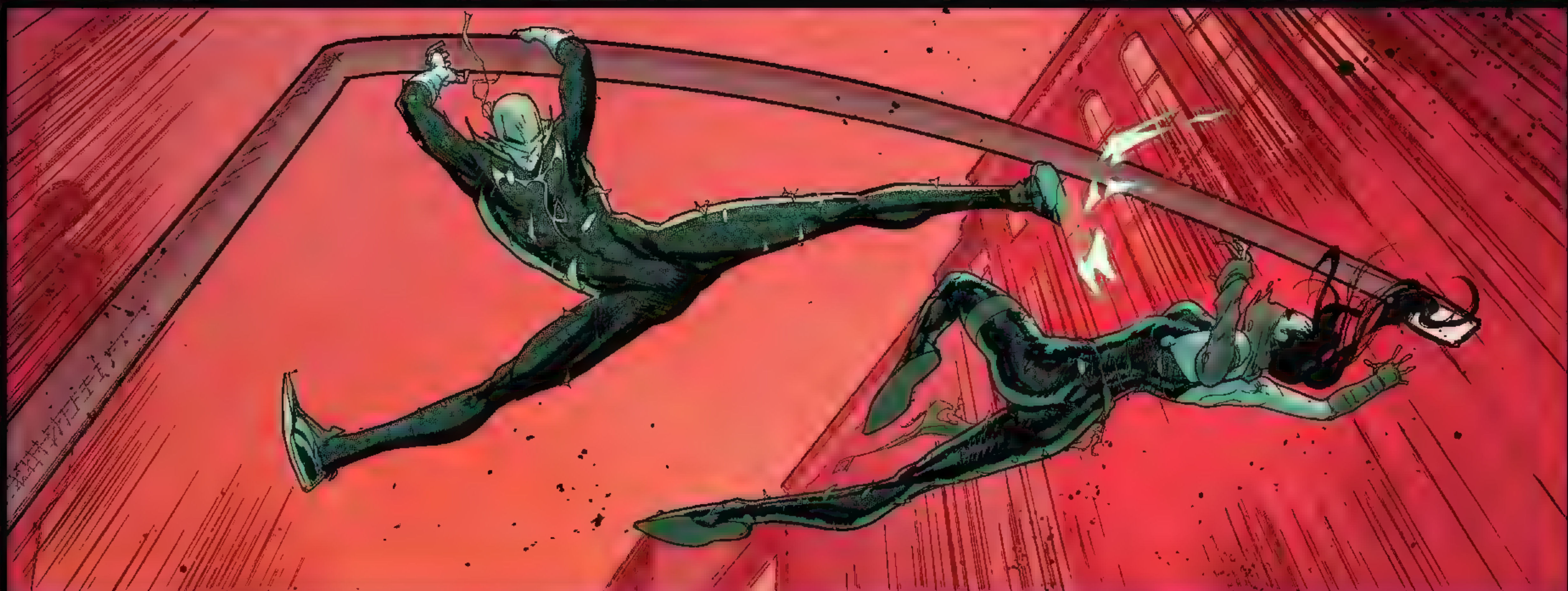












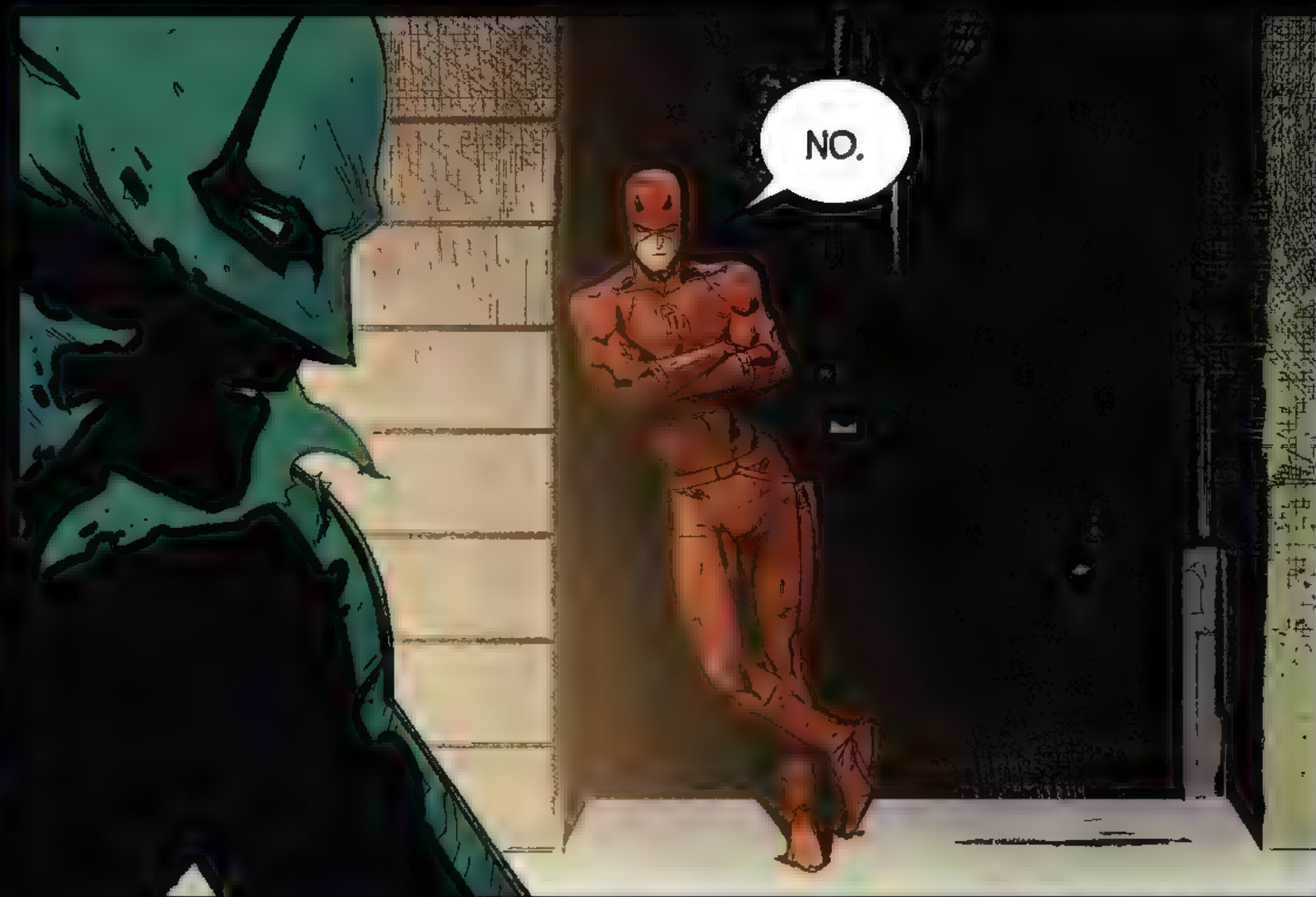












"YOU KNOW WHAT I FIND MOST OF THE TIME?"





EVEN WHEN  
YOU CAN'T SEE IT  
AT FIRST LOOK,  
**EVERYTHING** TURNS  
OUT TO BE A BLESSIN'  
IN DISGUISE.

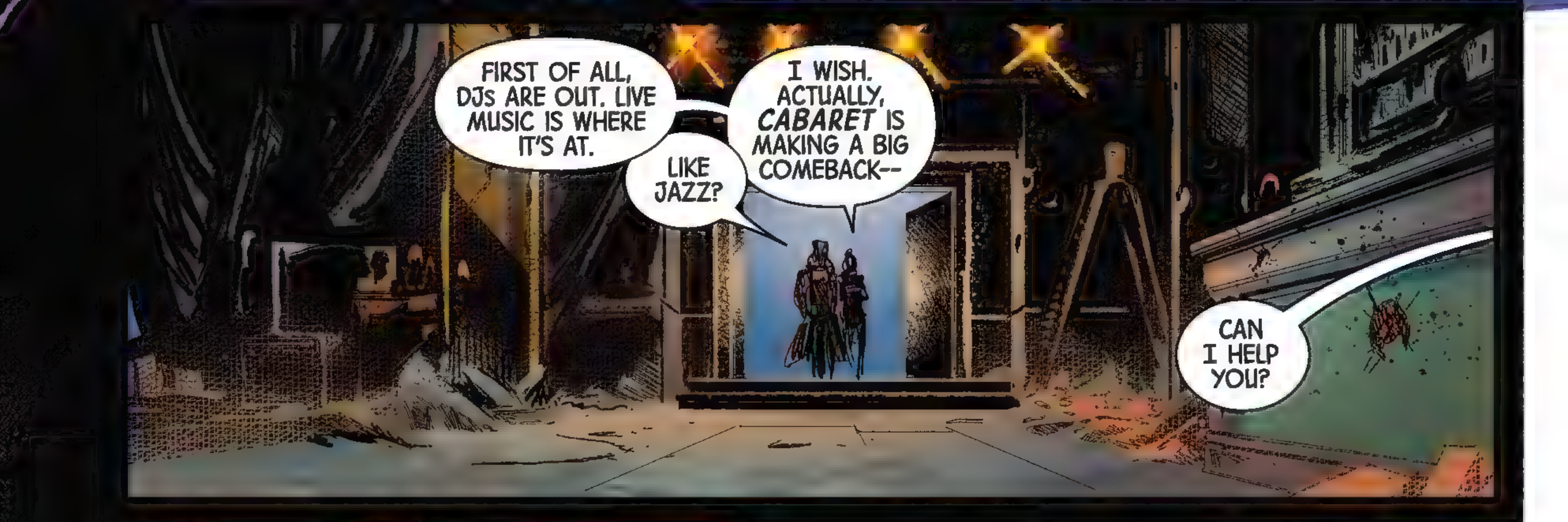
YOUR MOUTH  
TO GOD'S EARS,  
SISTER.

A PROPERTY  
LIKE THIS, MISTER  
STRYKER--SO  
LUCKY!

YOUR UNCLE  
DIES, IT *IS* SAD, BUT  
HE LEFT YOU A **REAL  
TREASURE.**

IT'S JUST  
**BEGGING** FOR  
REINVENTION.  
BEGGING.

I KNOW  
SOME PEOPLE--WE  
CAN BRING IT BACK  
TO ITS GLORY  
DAYS.



FIRST OF ALL,  
DJS ARE OUT. LIVE  
MUSIC IS WHERE  
IT'S AT.

LIKE  
JAZZ?

I WISH.  
ACTUALLY,  
**CABARET** IS  
MAKING A BIG  
COMEBACK--

CAN  
I HELP  
YOU?



CLUB'S  
CLOSED.

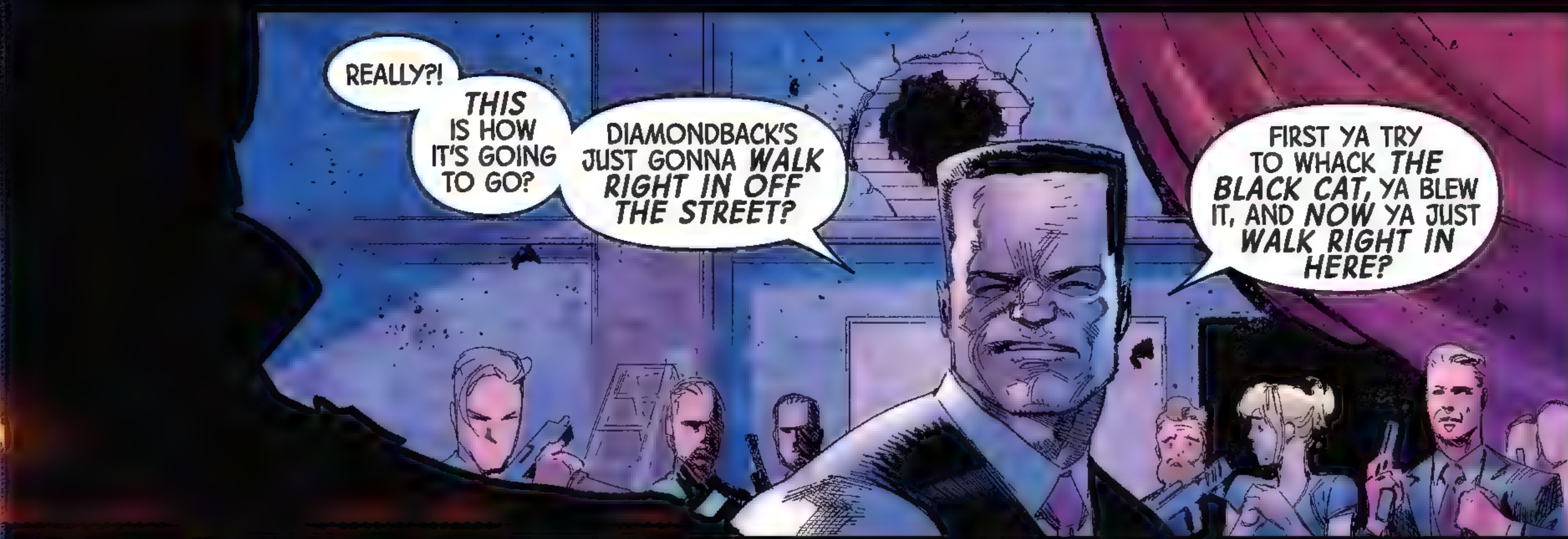


I, UM, I  
THOUGHT YOU  
SAID THIS WAS  
**YOUR CLUB.**

THAT YOUR  
DEAD UNCLE  
HAMMER--

(OH, I  
THINK I GET  
IT NOW.)





REALLY?!

THIS IS HOW IT'S GOING TO GO?

DIAMONDBACK'S JUST GONNA WALK RIGHT IN OFF THE STREET?

FIRST YA TRY TO WHACK THE BLACK CAT, YA BLEW IT, AND NOW YA JUST WALK RIGHT IN HERE?



THERE'S A HISTORY HERE, ACTUALLY.

BEFORE BLACK CAT OWNED IT, THIS USED TO BE CALLED THE EXCELSIOR CLUB AND USED TO BELONG TO CAESAR "BIG C" CICERO.

HEAD OF THE MAGGIA.

BUSTER, I WAS THE MAGGIA.



I REMEMBER YOU BACK IN THE DAY, HAMMERHEAD.

YOU WERE GLORIFIED MUSCLE. A BAGMAN WITH A GIMMICK.

EXCEPT NOW YOU'RE STUCK IN THIS WEIRD PSYCHOSEXUAL THING WITH THE BLACK CAT.

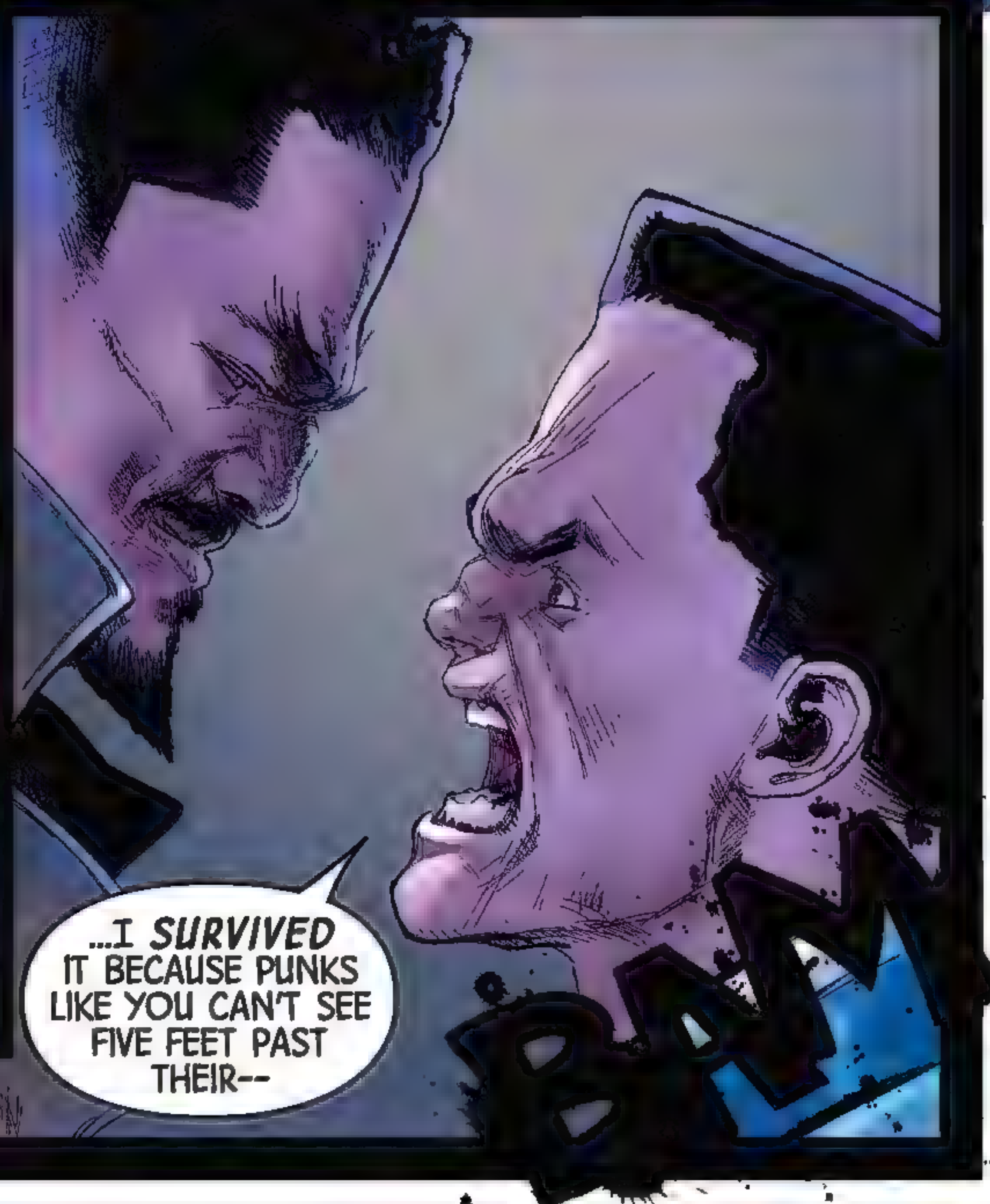
SAME AS YA ARE NOW.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU TWO.

YOU PUTTING "THE HAMMERHEAD" TO HER?

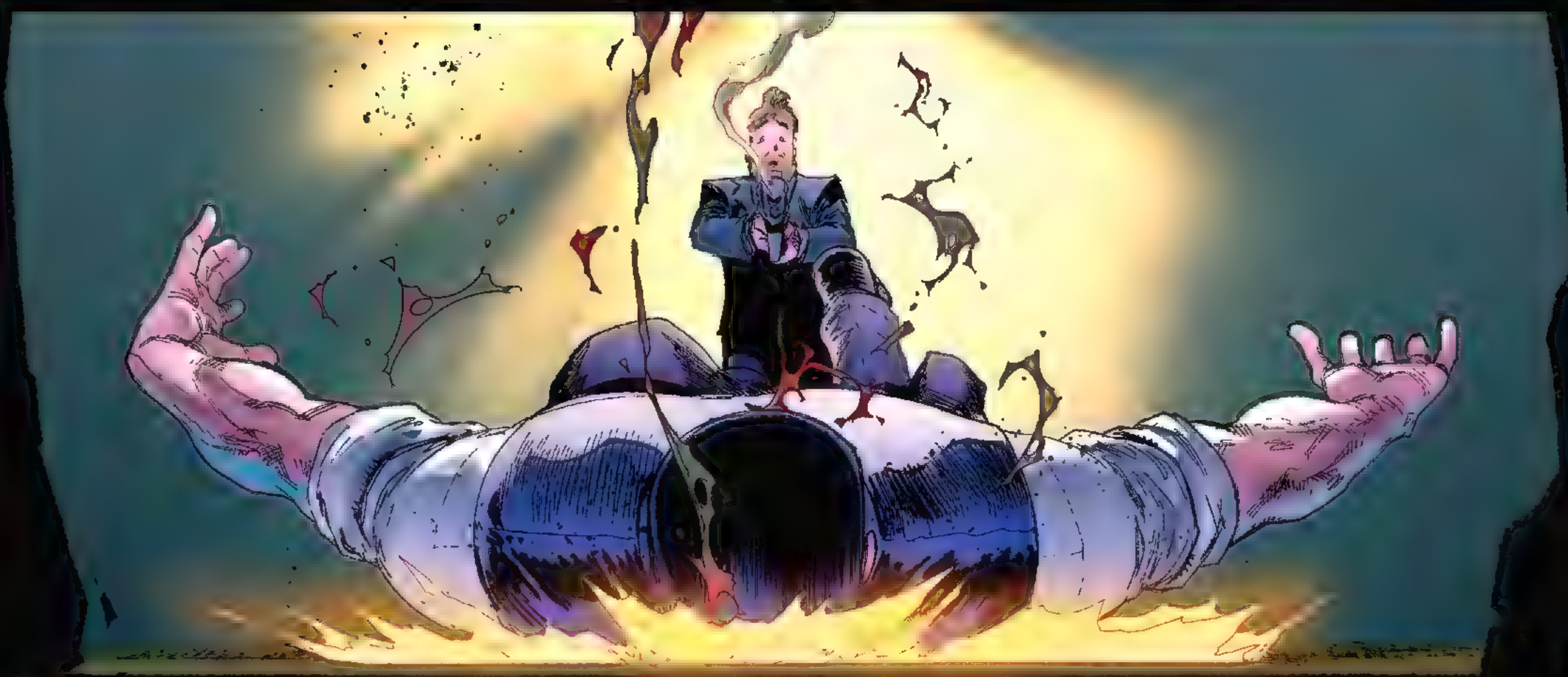
BUSTER, I KNOW YOU THINK YOU'RE THE HOTNESS, BUT I'VE SURVIVED EVERYTHING.

THE WILSON FISK ROLLER-COASTER, THE OWL, NEFARIA, SILVERMANE...



...I SURVIVED IT BECAUSE PUNKS LIKE YOU CAN'T SEE FIVE FEET PAST THEIR--





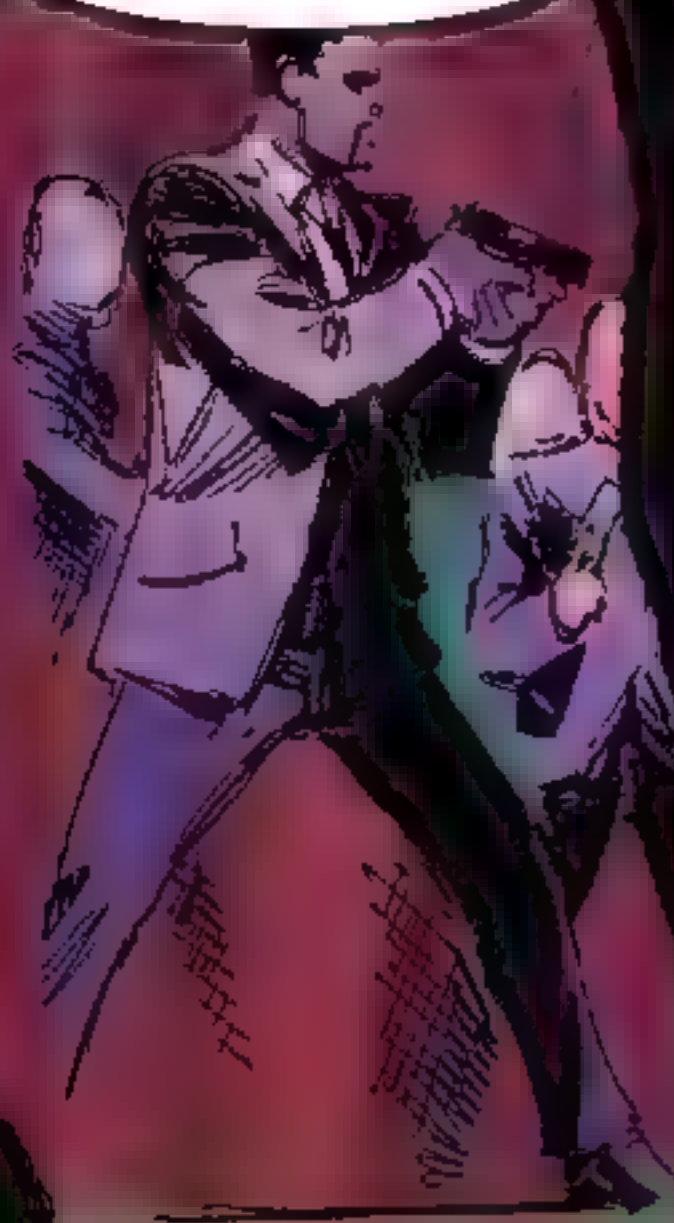
HE WAS ACTUALLY  
BRAGGING THAT  
ALL HE DID ALL  
THESE YEARS IS  
SURVIVE.

A GUY LIKE THAT WITH A  
HEAD LIKE THAT AND HE AIN'T  
THE KINGPIN OF THE  
ENTIRE CONTINENTAL  
UNITED STATES?

KEEP  
IT.

OH,  
THANKS.

SO NOW  
WHAT?







WELL, FIRST  
OF ALL, NICE  
JOB.

GARY,  
RIGHT?

YEAH.

NICE JOB.  
NICE DRAMATIC  
TIMING.

LISTEN,  
GARY HERE  
WILL TELL YOU,  
I PAY BETTER, THE  
BENEFITS ARE  
**CRAZY--**

**CRAZY!**

--AND, BRAG  
I **WILL**, I THINK  
YOU'D **ALL** LIKE THE  
FEELING OF WORKING  
FOR A WINNER FOR  
A CHANGE.



I **WILL** LEARN ALL YOUR  
NAMES IN GOOD TIME BUT,  
MEANWHILE, LET'S TRY TO  
GET THIS PLACE UP  
AND--

OH, HEY! WHERE'D  
THE LADY GO? THE  
ONE I CAME IN  
WITH?

OH,  
SHE RAN  
AWAY.

I HIRED  
HER TO SHOW  
ME--(OH, THAT'S  
ANNOYING.)

HEY, ANYONE  
HERE LOYAL TO  
BLACK CAT WHOM  
MONEY **CAN'T**  
BUY...

...NOW'S  
THE TIME TO  
SPEAK UP.



ACTUALLY, I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU--FELICIA, SHE  
SAVED MY BROTHER'S  
LIFE.

SHE  
**REALLY**  
DID.

I'D  
BE REMISS  
IF I DIDN'T  
MENTION  
IT.

HOW MUCH  
IS SHE PAYING  
YOU NOW?

10 PLUS  
TIPS.

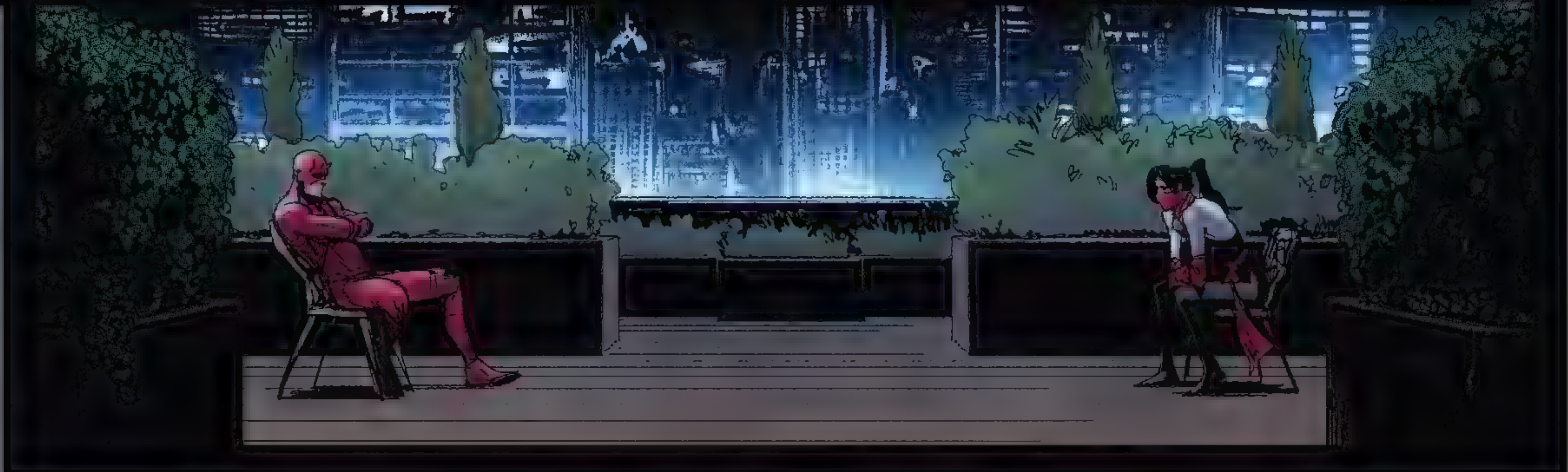
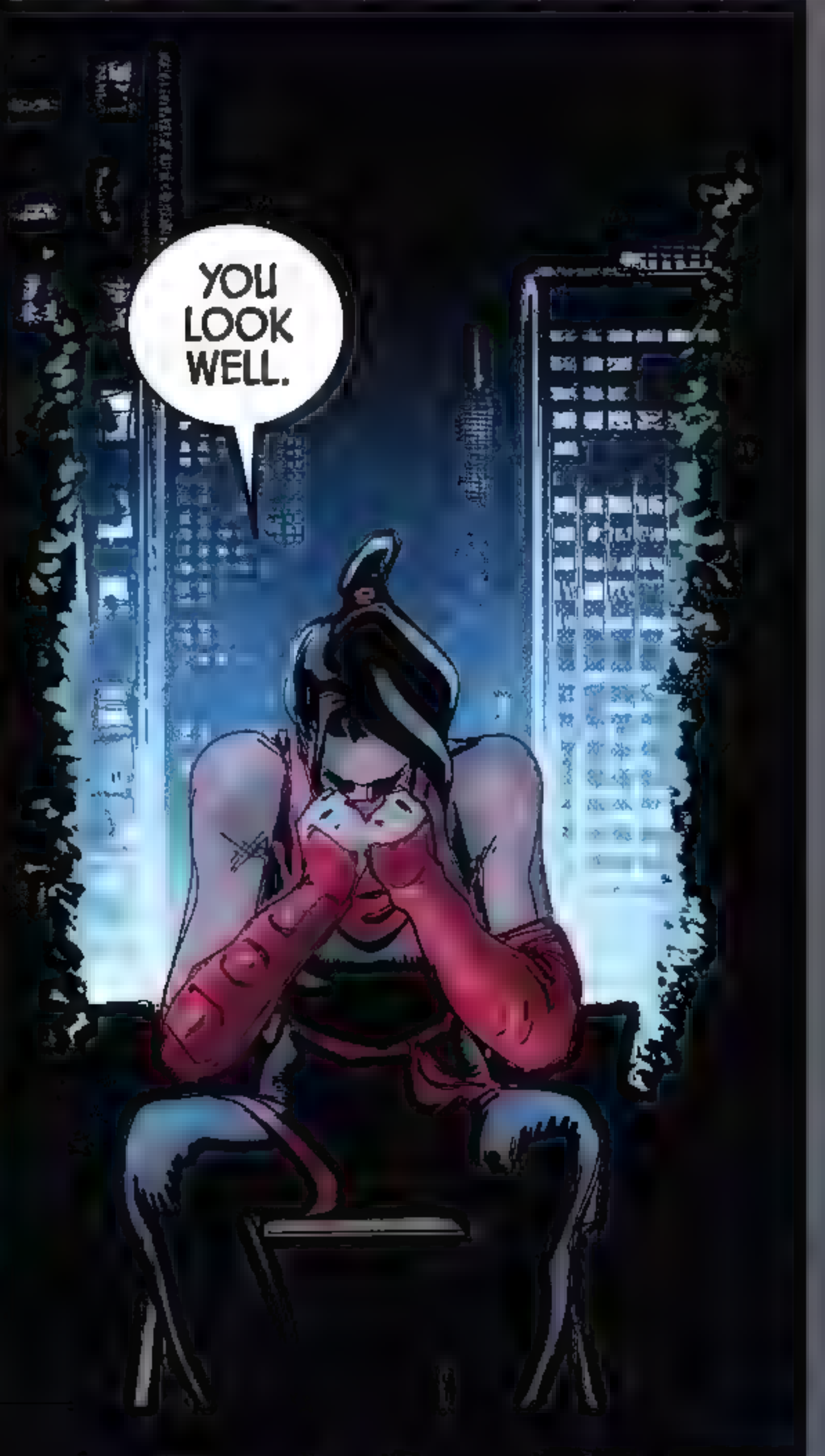
IT'S  
DOUBLED.

WELL, I  
GUESS @\$@#  
HER, THEN.

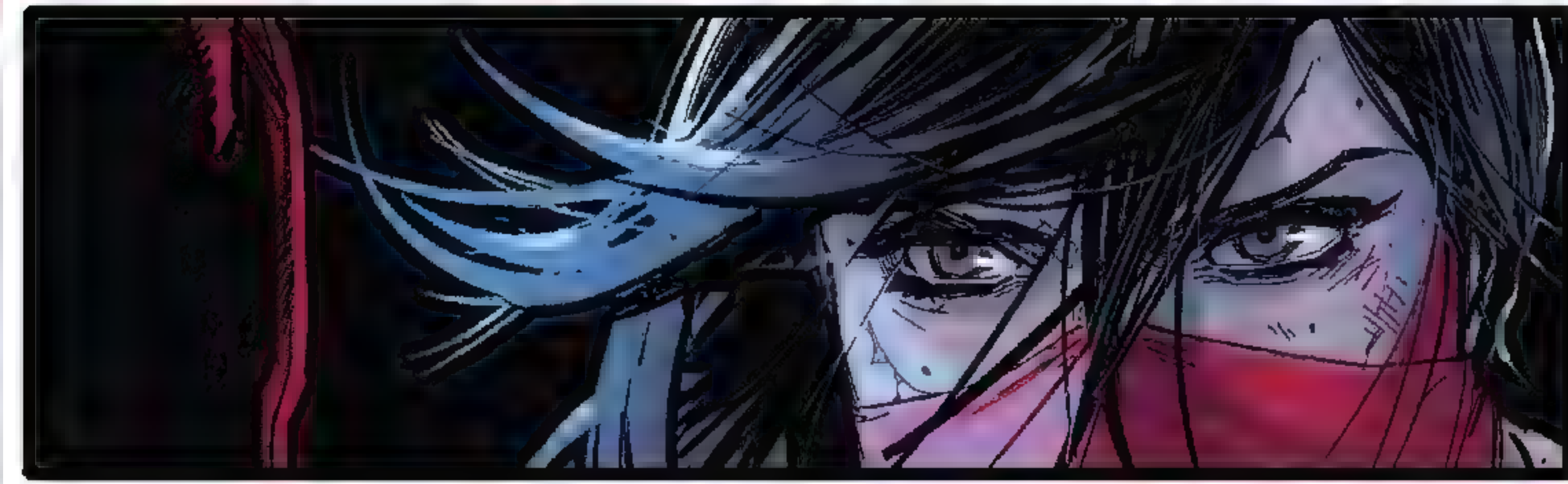
GOD BLESS  
AMERICA.

\$@#\$  
THAT, TOO!

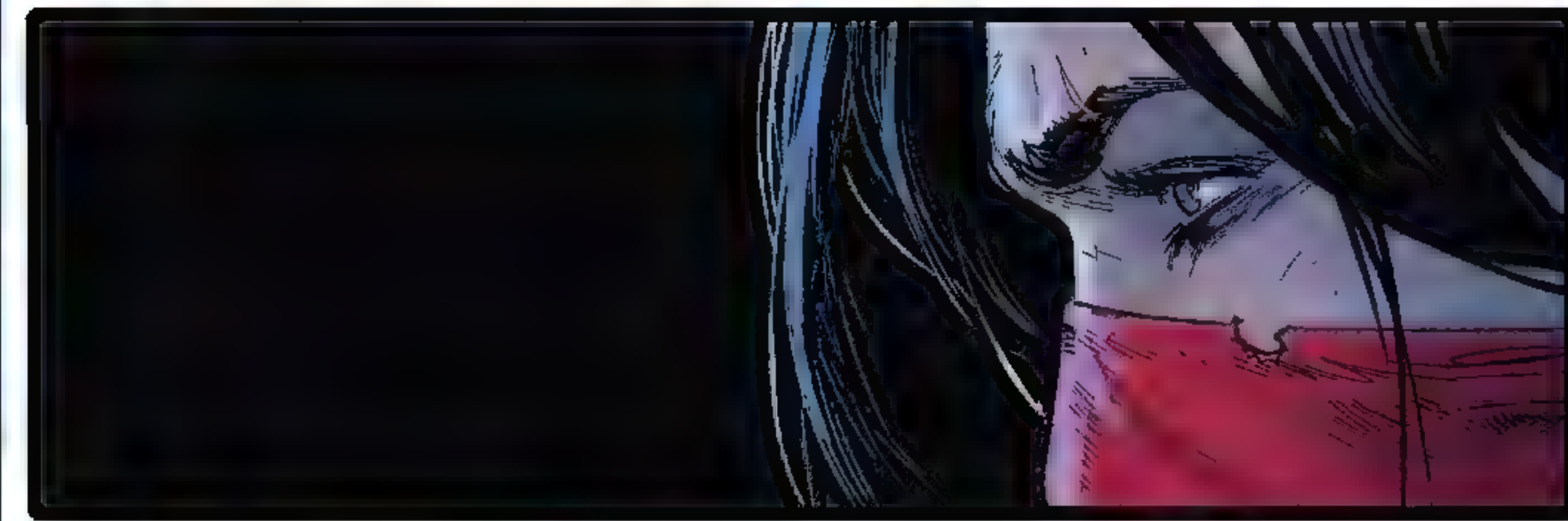




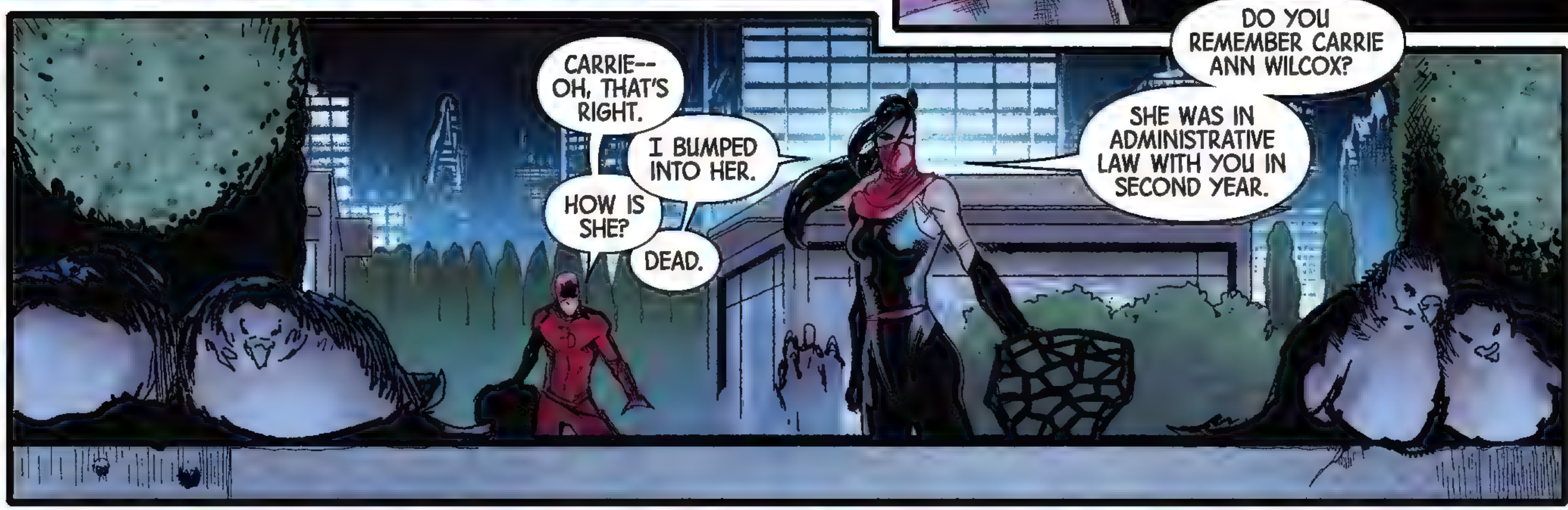
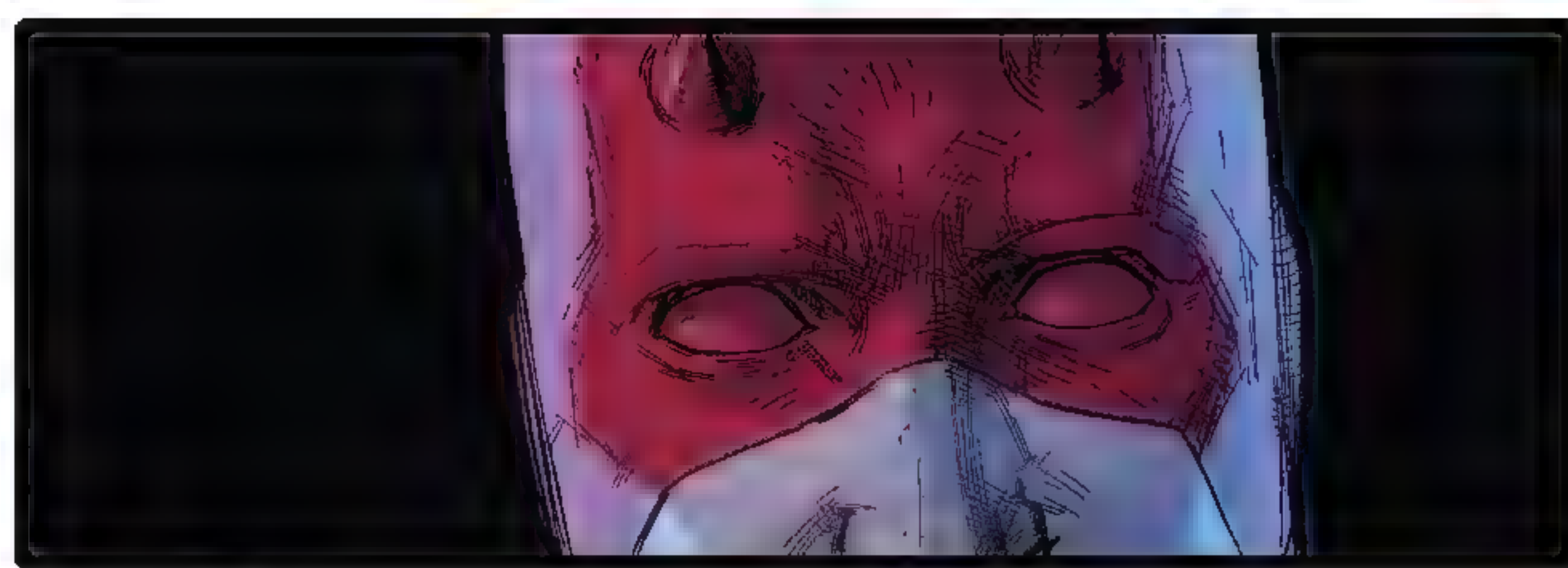




THE HELL?  
I AM.  
(IT'S TURNING ME ON.)  
LET IT HAPPEN.

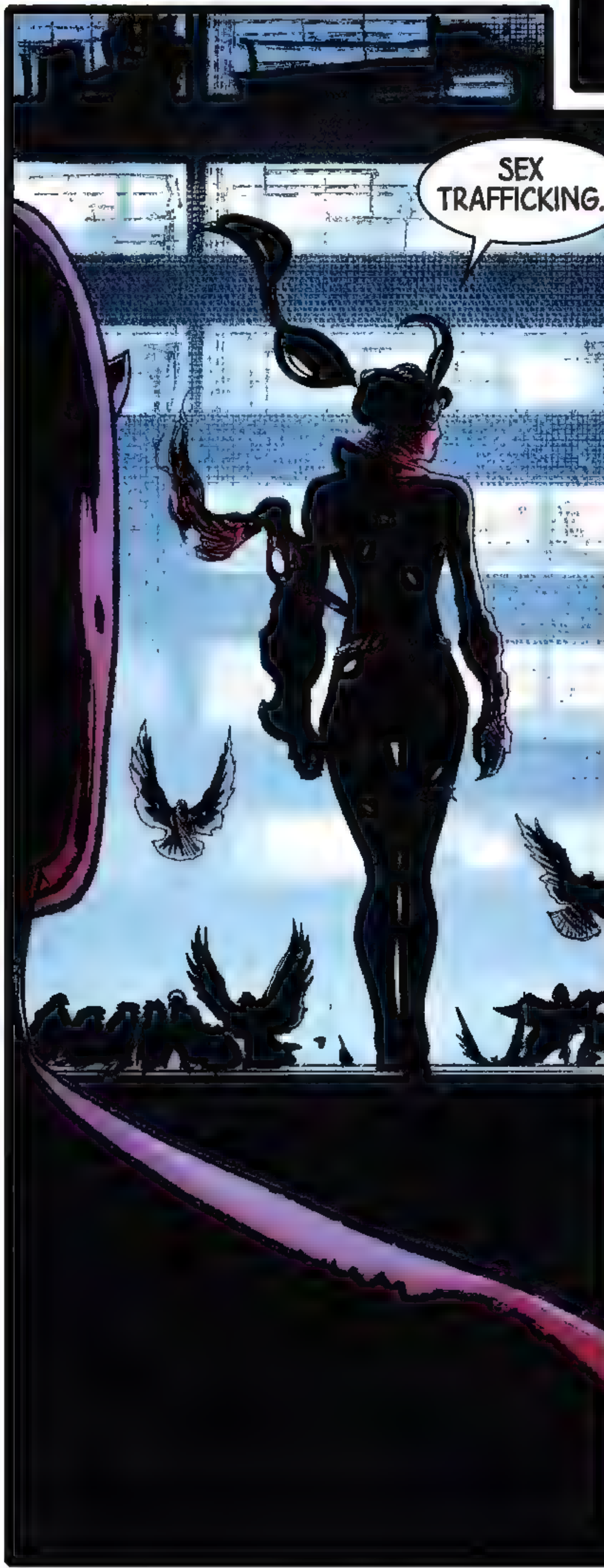


OKAY...  
STAY SAFE,  
ELEKTRA.



CARRIE--  
OH, THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
I BUMPED  
INTO HER.  
HOW IS  
SHE?  
DEAD.

DO YOU  
REMEMBER CARRIE  
ANN WILCOX?  
SHE WAS IN  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
LAW WITH YOU IN  
SECOND YEAR.



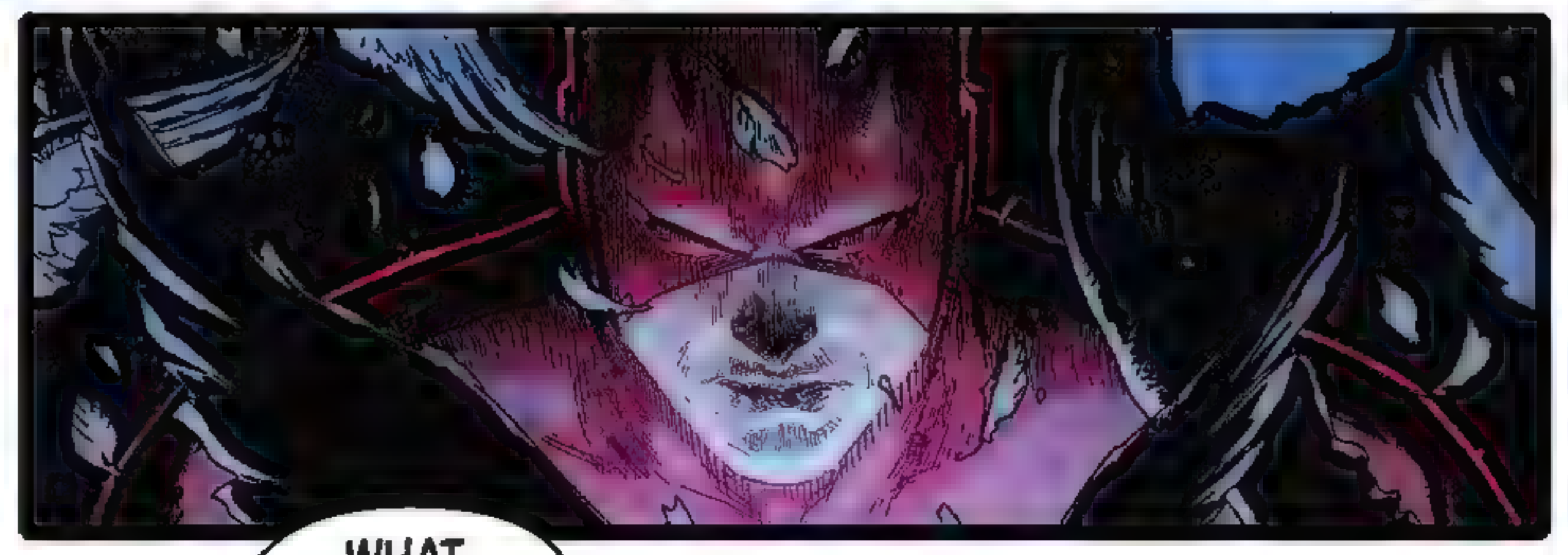
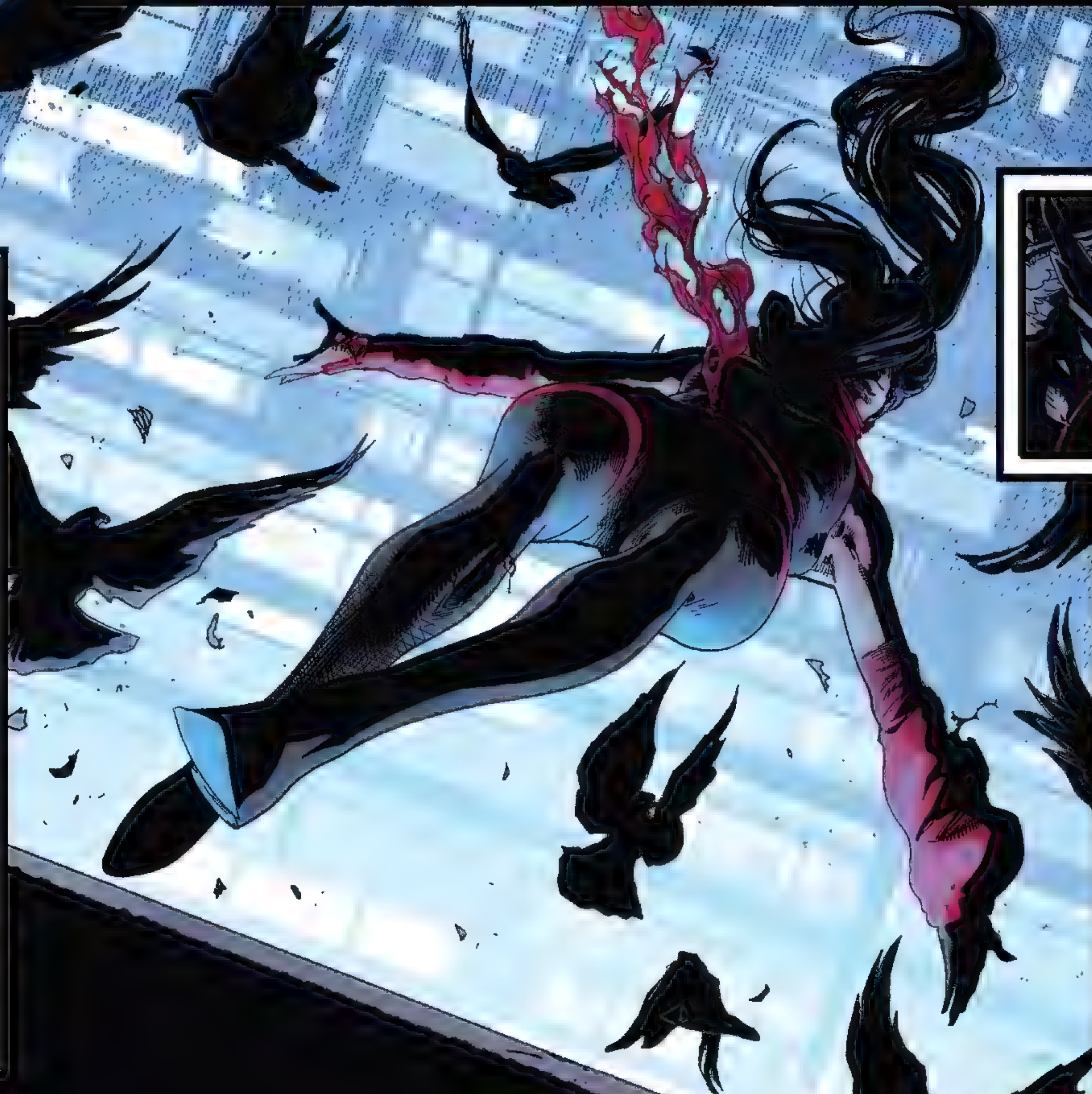
SEX  
TRAFFICKING.



OH.



YOU NEVER  
KNOW ABOUT  
SOME PEOPLE.



WHAT  
THE ACTUAL  
@#\$@?  
YOU DIDN'T  
EVEN ASK HER  
ABOUT BREAKING  
INTO HEROES  
FOR HIRE!  
WHY DID YOU  
ASK HER ABOUT  
DIAMONDBACK?  
AND  
WHAT  
THE ACTUAL  
@#\$@?





NOT ALL  
COMMUNICATION  
IS VERBAL.

WE'RE NINJA-  
TRAINED. DANNY  
UNDERSTANDS.

SHE  
WAS HIRED TO  
LOOK INTO WHO  
**ATTACKED**  
YOU.

SHE DIDN'T  
TAKE ANYTHING  
FROM YOUR OFFICE.  
**THAT'S WHY**  
NOTHING SEEMED  
TO BE MISSING.

SHE'S WORKING  
THE SAME BEAT AS US  
BUT FROM A DIFFERENT  
ANGLE. FOR WHOM, I  
DO NOT KNOW, WHICH  
MEANS SHE CAN'T  
SAY.

IT  
COULD BE  
ANYONE.

SO, I  
ASKED ABOUT  
DIAMONDBACK  
BECAUSE--**SHE'S**  
AFTER HIM  
TOO.



OKAY,  
LUKE...

YEAH,  
DUDE, WHO  
**ARE YOU?**



WHO  
**AM I?**

DUDE, WE'RE  
OUT HERE ON  
THE STREETS  
**FIGHTING** FOR  
OUR LIVES, WE GOT  
**DIAMONDBACK**  
KNOCKING ON OUR  
FRONT DOOR, AND  
NOW WE GOT  
**ASSASSINS**  
BREAKING INTO  
OUR OFFICE...



AND YOU'RE GIVING  
THEM A WINK AND  
**LETTING THEM**  
**GO!**

YOU **CAN**  
SEE THEIR  
POINT.

WE'RE TAKING  
**A LOT OF THINGS**  
YOU SAY AT FACE  
VALUE WHEN--

WE HAVE  
A KID.

AND YOU  
**WON'T EVEN**  
SHOW US YOUR FACE.

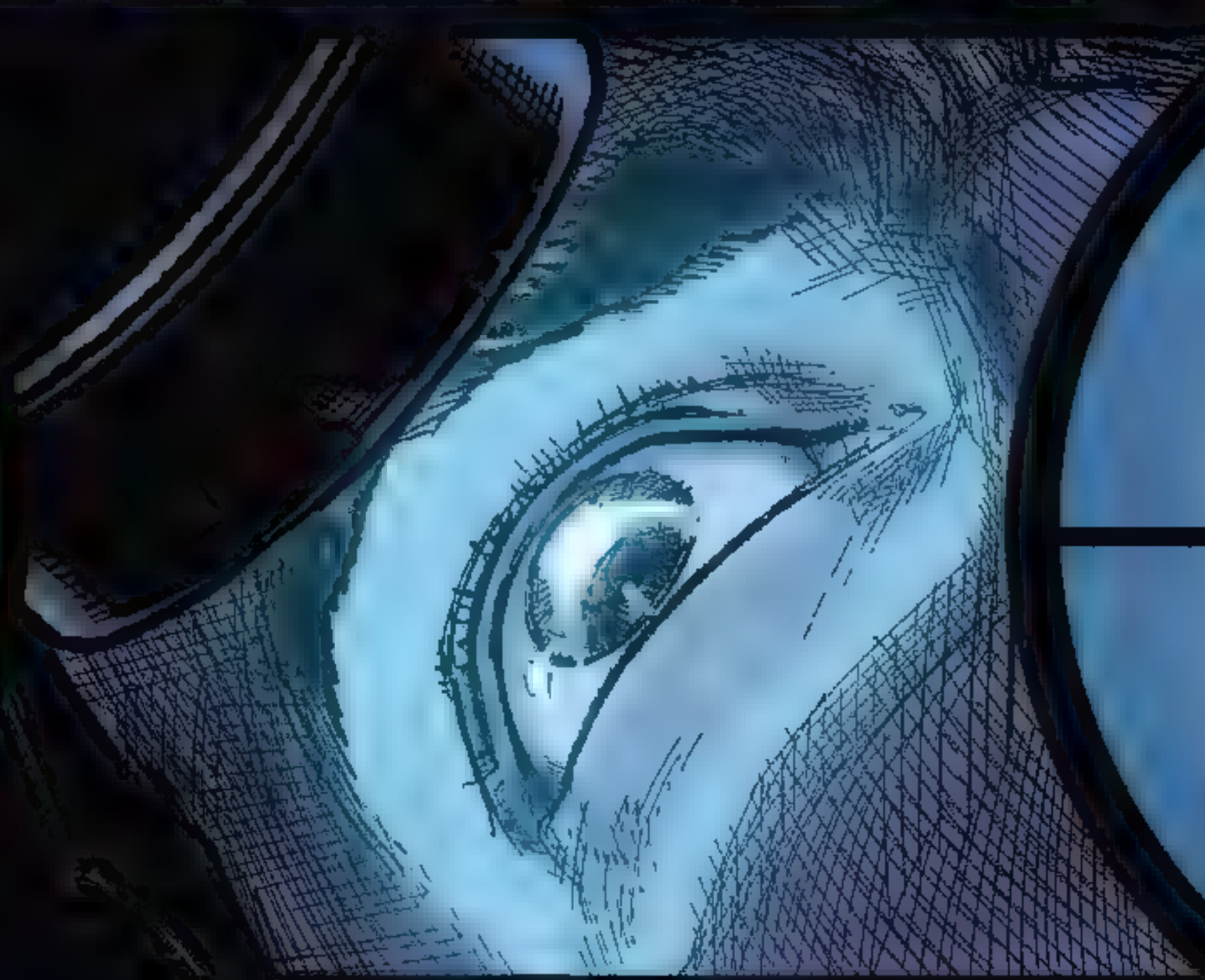
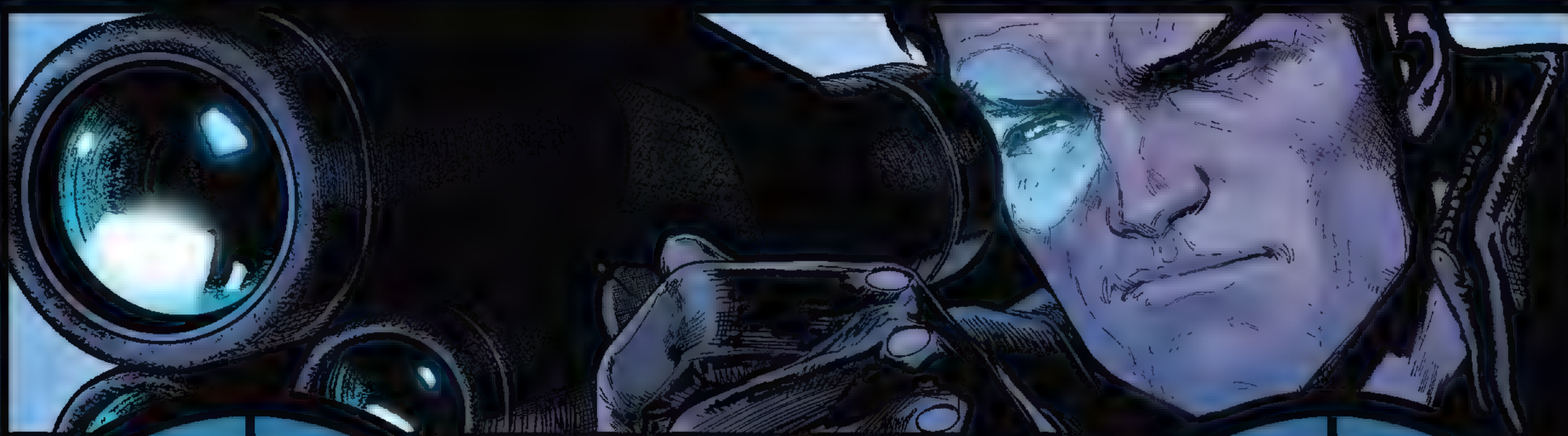


I MEAN,  
I HATE TO  
SAY IT, BUT  
YA--

--YA  
EITHER **TELL**  
**US** WHO YOU  
ARE OR YOU'RE  
OUT OF THE  
DEFENDERS...



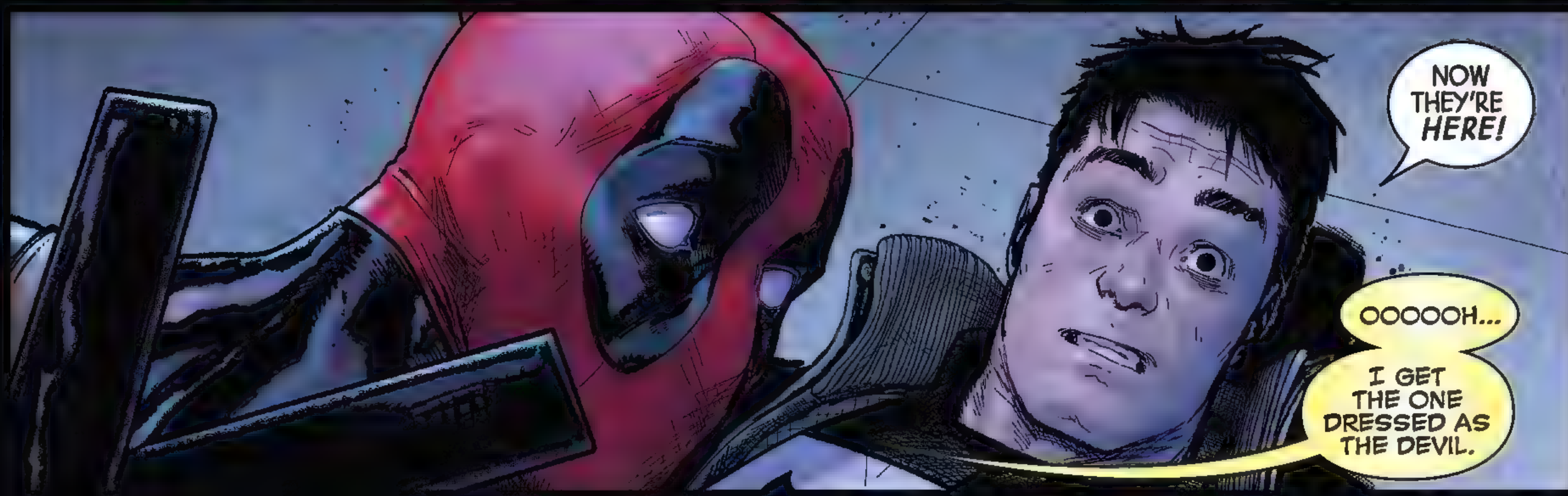
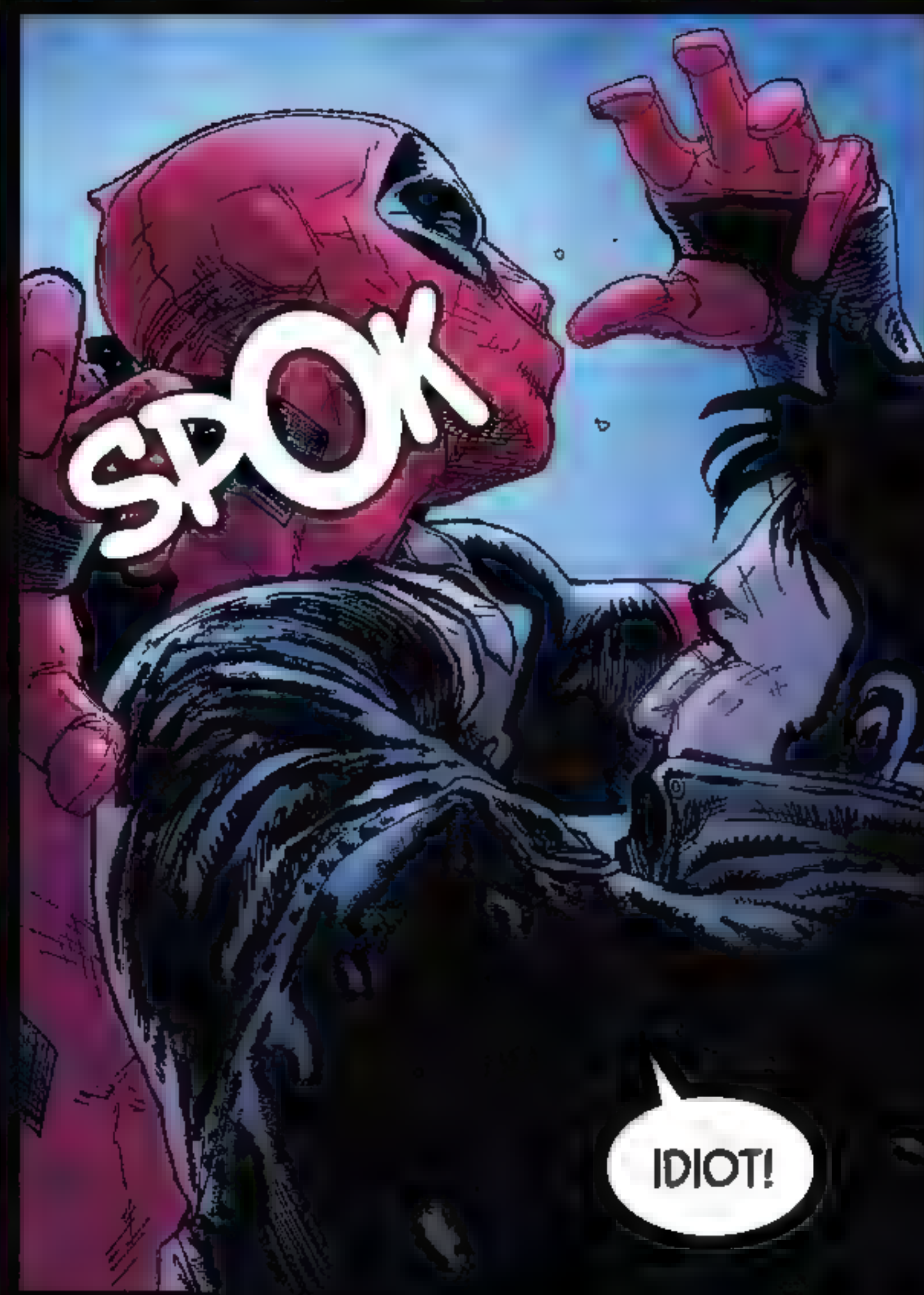
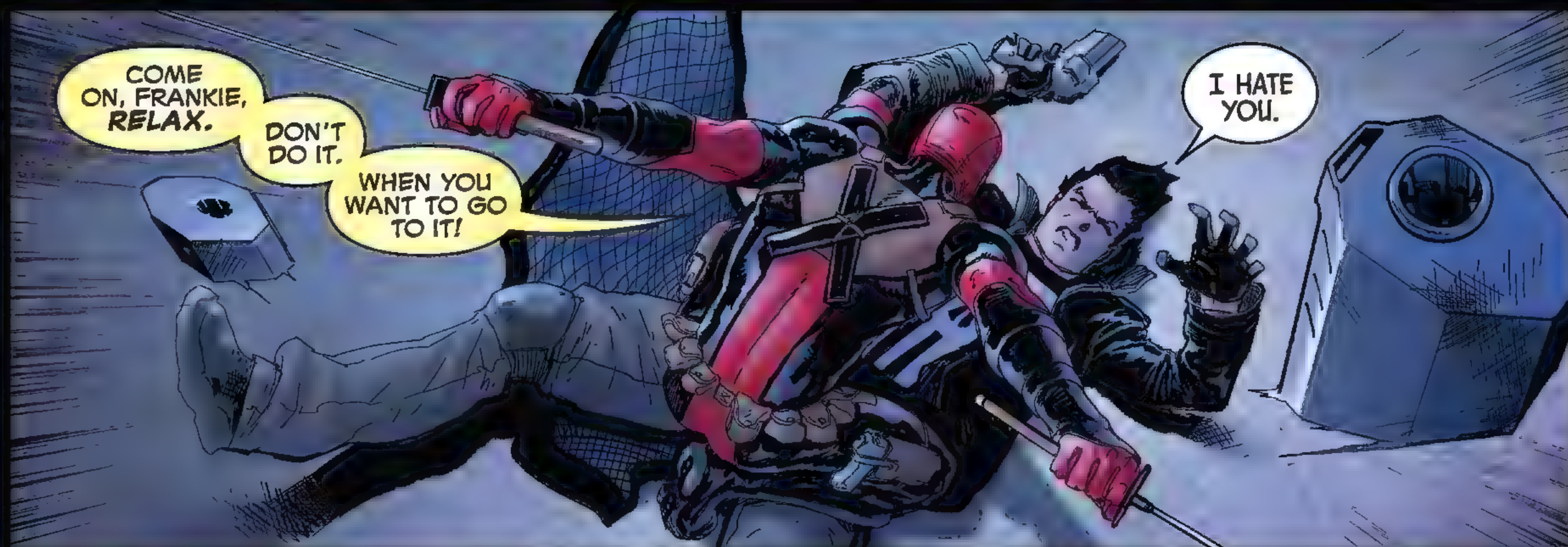




IS MINE  
NICER THAN  
SPIDER-MAN'S?

YOU CAN  
BE HONEST  
WITH ME.









"COME ON,  
ADMIT IT..."



# THE

# BLACK CAT RISES!

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# THE DEFENDERS

**SPECTACULAR SPECIAL ISSUE!**  
**THE START OF A DEADLY**  
**NEW YORK GANG WAR!**

**SWEET**  
**CHRISTMAS!**



**NO. 6 HOMAGE VARIANT BY SZYMON KUDRANSKI & FRANK D'ARMATA**







# THE DEFENDERS



FRANK  
CASTLE, TURN TO  
THE RIGHT!

HEY, ONE MORE  
HOLE-PUNCH IN YOUR  
ARREST RECORD AND  
YOU GET A FREE  
SANDWICH.

LET'S SEE,  
WHO BUSTED  
YOU THIS  
TIME?

OH, IT SAYS  
**THE DEFENDERS**  
AND **DEADPOOL**  
STOPPED YOU FROM  
ASSASSINATING ONE  
OF THEIR OWN.

OH, AND THIS  
IS **AFTER** YOU  
VIOLENTLY ESCAPED  
FROM PRISON.

TURN  
TO THE  
**LEFT.**

THE STREETS  
OF NEW YORK HAVE  
GONE TO HELL EVER SINCE  
THE KINGPIN GAVE UP BEING  
KINGPIN AND GUYS LIKE  
DIAMONDBACK HAVE TRIED  
TO GRAB EVERYTHING  
THEY CAN...

...BUT YOU  
PEOPLE--YOU KEEP  
FIGHTING WITH EACH  
OTHER AND THEN WONDER  
HOW THESE CRIMINALS  
KEEP GETTING THE  
UPPER HAND...

TURN  
TO THE  
**RIGHT.**

THINK ABOUT  
IT, FRANKIE--WHILE  
YOU GET PROCESSED,  
THE BAD GUYS ARE  
OUT THERE...

PLOTING,  
PLANNING...

OU812ZECK  
CASTLE, FRANK



"...READY FOR THEIR MOMENT."

QUIET! NO TALKING.

NO TALKING?

I WANT TO PLAY A SERIOUS GAME OF SKILL.

DUDE, YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

TITANIA, I WANT YOUR BEST GAME.

FIXER, THIS IS THE **ONE NIGHT** I GET OFF FROM DEALING WITH THE MESS MY DEAD HUSBAND LEFT ME.

THE ONE NIGHT.

I SHOWED UP TO THIS "MEETING" ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY, EVEN THOUGH I **KNEW** OUR HOST, HAMMERHEAD, IS NO LONGER WITH US...

THAT IS HOW MUCH I NEED THIS.

TITANIA, I WANT YOUR BEST GAME.

DUDE, IT'S **MONOPOLY**.

SSHH!

OKAY.

YOU-- YOU'RE **LOSING** IT.

REALLY.

THIS GUY DIAMONDBACK GOT HAMMERHEAD, THE BLACK CAT GETS POPPED...

IT'S DUCK-HUNTING SEASON AND NOT **ONE** OF YOU HAS PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN CREW TO GO GET WHAT'S YOURS?

I'M NOT LOOKING TO BE KINGPIN.

AT THIS POINT, I JUST WANT WHAT'S MINE SO I CAN--

HOLD ON...

WHAT?

I SWEAR TO GOD, RUMOR IS, EVERY TIME SOMEONE STARTS TALKING ABOUT DIAMONDBACK...

...HE--HE SUDDENLY **SHOWS UP**...

LIKE--LIKE BEETLEJUICE.

WHAT ARE YOU **BABBLING** ABOUT?

TRUST ME ON THIS, MOONSTONE, I KNOW WHAT--

OH, THIS PLACE...

I **REMEMBER** THIS PLACE...

THIS IS WHERE THE KINGPIN BECAME THE KINGPIN.

I WAS HERE.

WELL, I WAS OVER THERE.

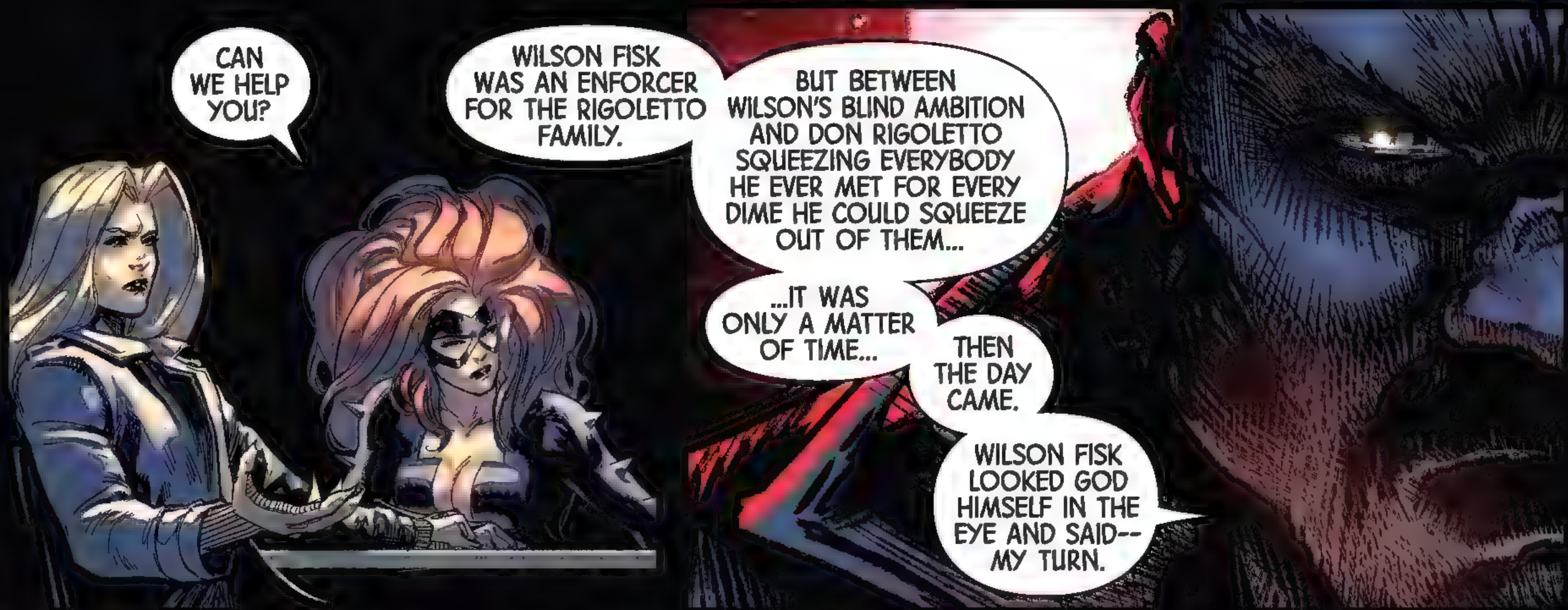
I SAW IT.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

BUT IT WAS **HERE** THAT THE KINGPIN MADE HIS BONES.

SEE, A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS...





CAN WE HELP YOU?

WILSON FISK WAS AN ENFORCER FOR THE RIGOLETTO FAMILY.

BUT BETWEEN WILSON'S BLIND AMBITION AND DON RIGOLETTO SQUEEZING EVERYBODY HE EVER MET FOR EVERY DIME HE COULD SQUEEZE OUT OF THEM...

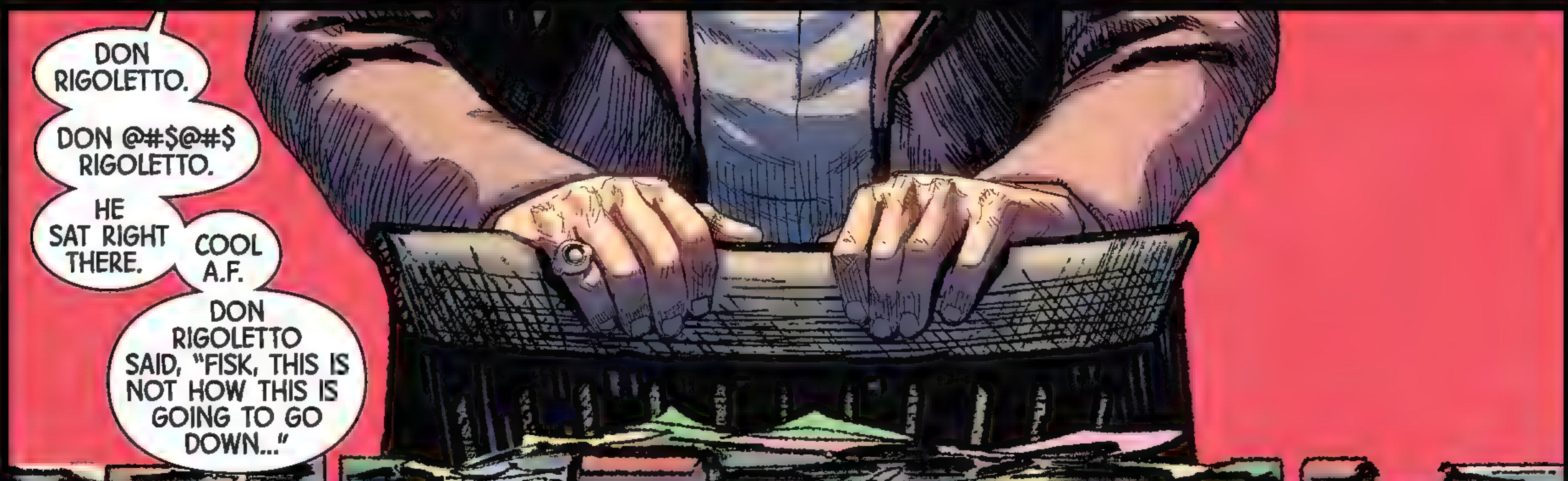
...IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME...

THEN THE DAY CAME.

WILSON FISK LOOKED GOD HIMSELF IN THE EYE AND SAID-- MY TURN.



THERE'S CLEARLY BEEN SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING.



DON RIGOLETTO.

DON @#\$@#\$ RIGOLETTO.

HE SAT RIGHT THERE.

COOL A.F.

DON RIGOLETTO SAID, "FISK, THIS IS NOT HOW THIS IS GOING TO GO DOWN..."



IT'S A SIMPLE DIFFERENCE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, DON RIGOLETTO.

I THINK YOU *HAVE* TO PAY YOUR BILLS TO RUN AN EFFECTIVE OPERATION AND YOU *CLEARLY* HAVE DECIDED OTHERWISE.





I'M THE  
DON OF THIS  
FAMILY, FISK.

NOT  
YOU.

THERE ARE  
WAYS THINGS  
GET DONE.

AND RULE  
NUMBER ONE, IF  
YOU EVER TOOK YOUR  
FACE OUT OF THE CANDY  
JAR LONG ENOUGH  
TO CARE, IS...

...MY BUSINESS  
IS *NONE* OF  
YOUR FAT #\$\$@#\$\$  
BUSINESS.

YOU'RE  
NOT HEARING  
ME, DON...

I'M  
TELLING  
YOU...

...YOU DIDN'T  
PAY YOUR BILLS,  
SO I PAID THEM  
FOR YOU.



THE MOMENT IT ALL  
CHANGED.

I DIDN'T  
KNOW IT AT  
THE TIME, OF  
COURSE.

NO ONE  
DID.

FISK  
HOPED,  
SURE.

MY FEELING  
IS ONCE THE GUNS  
OR POWERS COME OUT,  
I DON'T CARE HOW  
FORWARD-THINKING OR  
BADASS YOU ARE, NO ONE  
KNOWS WHAT'S *REALLY*  
GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT...





"I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT MOMENT A LOT.

"...THAT'S PROBABLY ON YOU.

"MAN, IF YOU LOOK UP AND EVERYBODY YOU KNOW IS POINTING A GUN AT YOU...

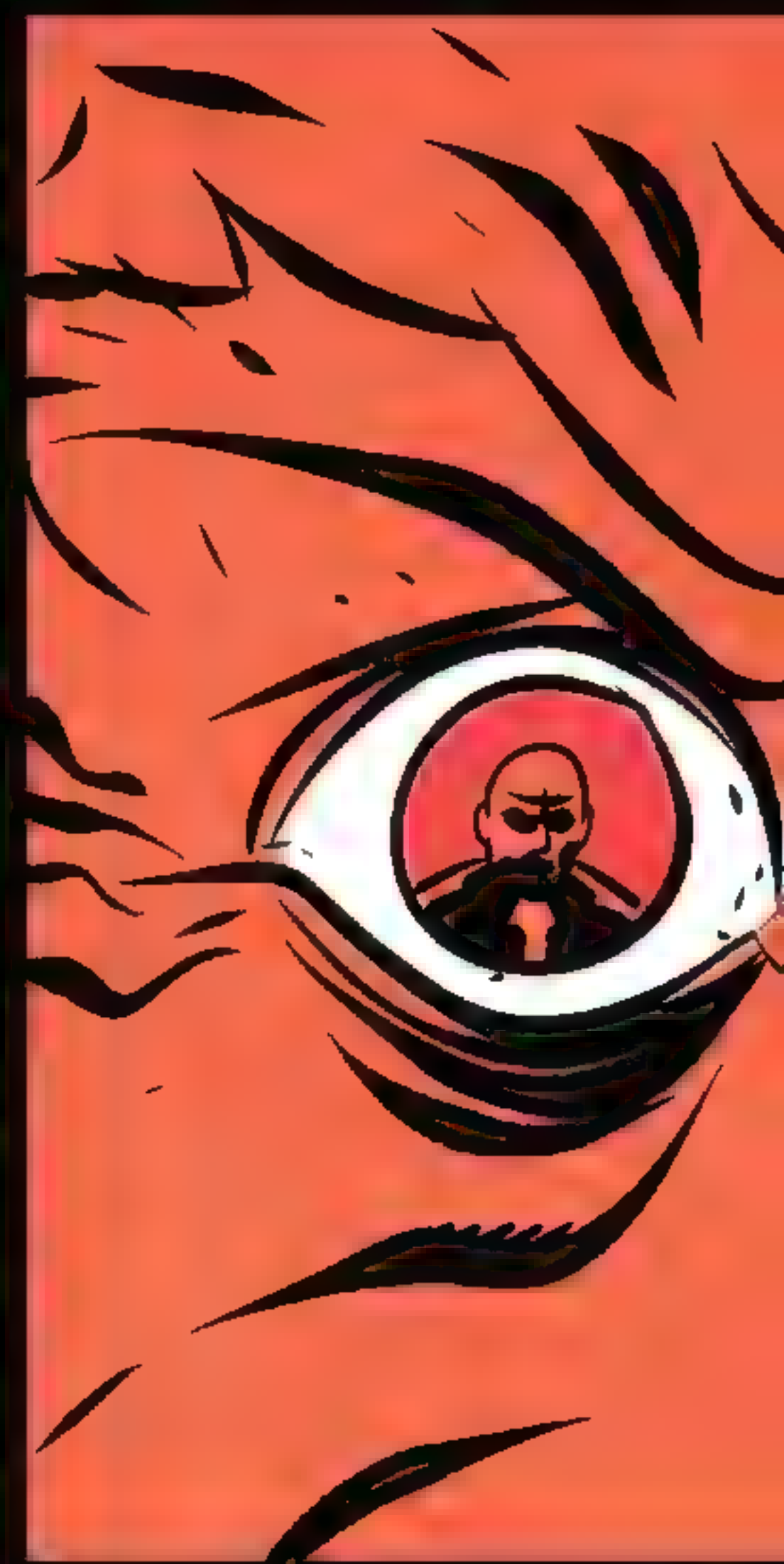
"YOU PUT YOURSELF THERE.

"AND IF YOU'RE A BAG MAN FOR THE MOB AND YOU DECIDE YOU'D RATHER GO OUT IN A HAIL OF @#\$@#\$ GLORY THAN SPEND ONE MORE SECOND BEING LESS THAN ALL YOU CAN BE WORKING FOR AN OILY ROLY-POLY LIKE RIGOLETTO...

SO IS THIS A "RING KISS" OR A "GOODBYE"?

RING KISS.

OKAY, THEN...





AND I HAVE  
TO SAY, EVEN IN  
THE MOMENT, I  
THOUGHT,  
HEY...

OKAY, YEAH,  
I'M LOW MAN  
ON THE TOTEM  
POLE FOR  
SURE...

...BUT I  
AM PART OF  
THIS CREW.

"WHY DIDN'T ANYONE  
CLUE ME IN ON THE  
BIG MUTINY?"

"WAS IT BECAUSE  
I WAS BLACK?"

"THESE  
'OLD-SCHOOL'  
GUYS..."

THANK YOU  
FOR ALL YOU'VE  
TAUGHT ME.

GOODBYE.





STRYKER.

THE  
DON CALLED YOU  
DIAMONDBACK.

WHY DID  
HE CALL YOU  
THAT?



'CUZ  
HE WAS AN  
IDIOT.

YOU AND  
MR. LUCAS...GET  
RID OF THE BODY,  
WILL YOU?



THEN REPORT  
TO CAESAR CICERO  
FOR SOME REAL  
WORK.

I HAVE  
MY EYE ON  
YOU.



THIS \$@#\$ GUY  
COMES UP TO ME, A  
STRANGER, AND SAYS,  
"WILL YOU GET RID OF  
THAT DEAD BODY I  
JUST KILLED?"

ONLY A  
MILLION YEARS  
LATER WOULD I FIND  
OUT HE KNEW *EXACTLY*  
WHO I WAS AND HE  
KNEW *EXACTLY* WHO  
EVERYONE IN THAT  
ROOM WAS.

HE LEFT  
NOTHING TO  
CHANCE.

I'D NEVER  
TOUCHED A  
DEAD BODY  
BEFORE.



HE HAD THE GAME  
PLAYED AND WON  
BEFORE RIGOLETTO  
EVEN PUT ON HIS  
TIGHTY-WHITIES THAT  
MORNING.

IT WAS--  
MAN, IT WAS  
INSPIRING.

GREAT  
STORY.

\$@#\$  
OFF.



YOU GUYS LIKE  
MAKING *ACTUAL*  
MONEY?

OH PLEASE,  
WE ARE *NOT*  
COMING TO WORK FOR  
YOU, CRAZY-PANTS  
MCGILLCUTTY.

HOW  
MUCH?





FIXER!

SERIOUSLY,  
HOW MUCH?

DUDE.

I WANT  
TO KNOW.

HE *WHACKED*  
HAMMERHEAD.



SOMEONE  
WAS GOING TO  
EVENTUALLY.

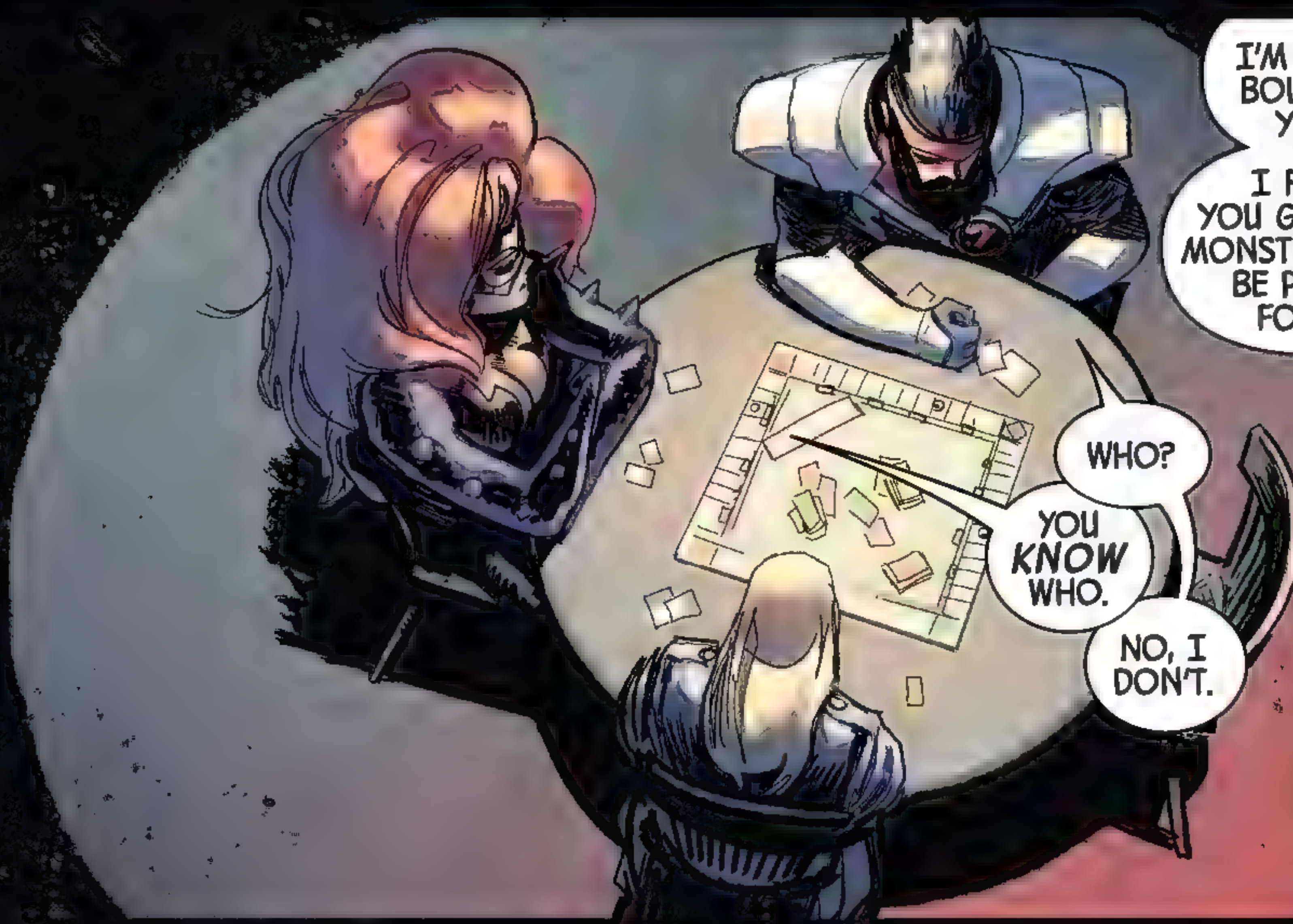
THERE WAS  
NO OTHER END TO  
*THAT* STORY.



TRUE  
WORDS.

HEY, I'M NOT  
HERE RECRUITING  
A GANG. I COULD  
GO TO LILLY FOR  
THAT.

I'M LOOKING  
FOR SOME *REAL*  
TALENT.



I'M HERE WITH A  
BOUNTY WORTH  
YOUR TIME.

I FIGURE  
YOU GODS AND  
MONSTERS MIGHT  
BE PERFECT  
FOR IT.

WHO?

YOU  
KNOW  
WHO.

NO, I  
DON'T.

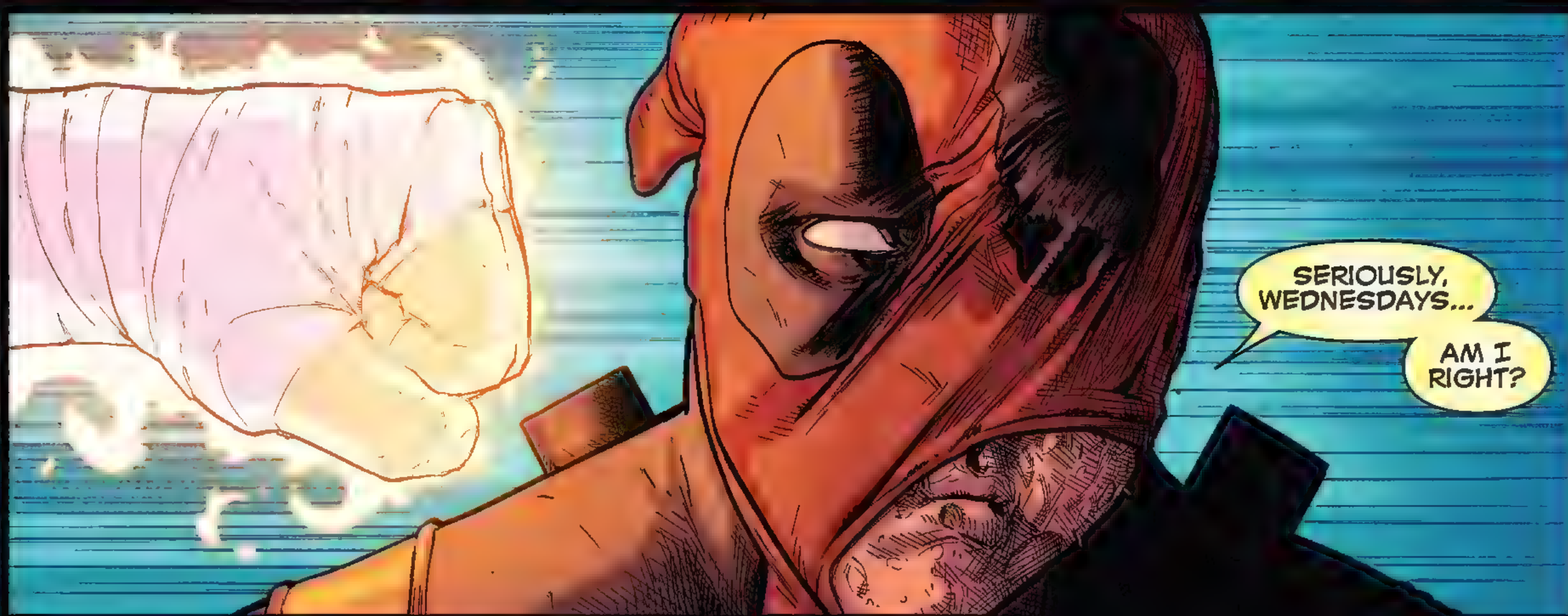
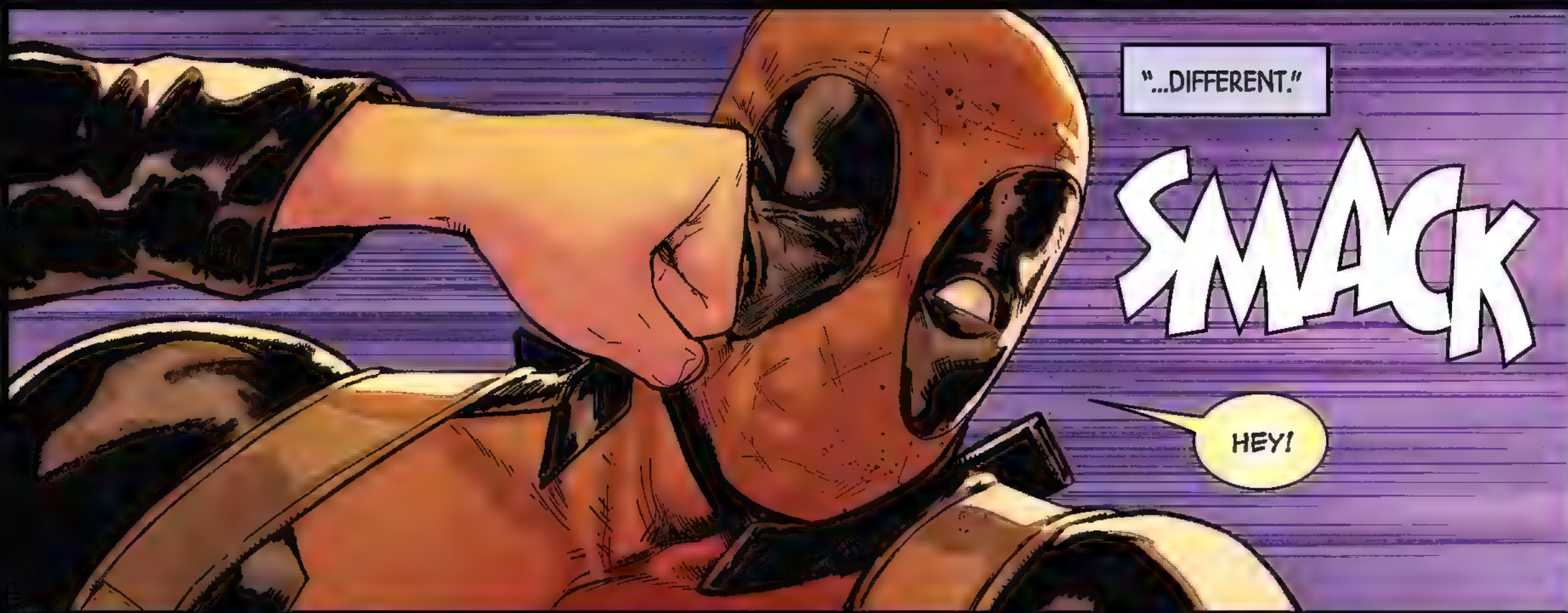


YOU  
HEARD OF THE  
DEFENDERS?

(NOT THE  
ONES WITH  
GARGOYLE...)

THESE GUYS--  
THEY'RE...

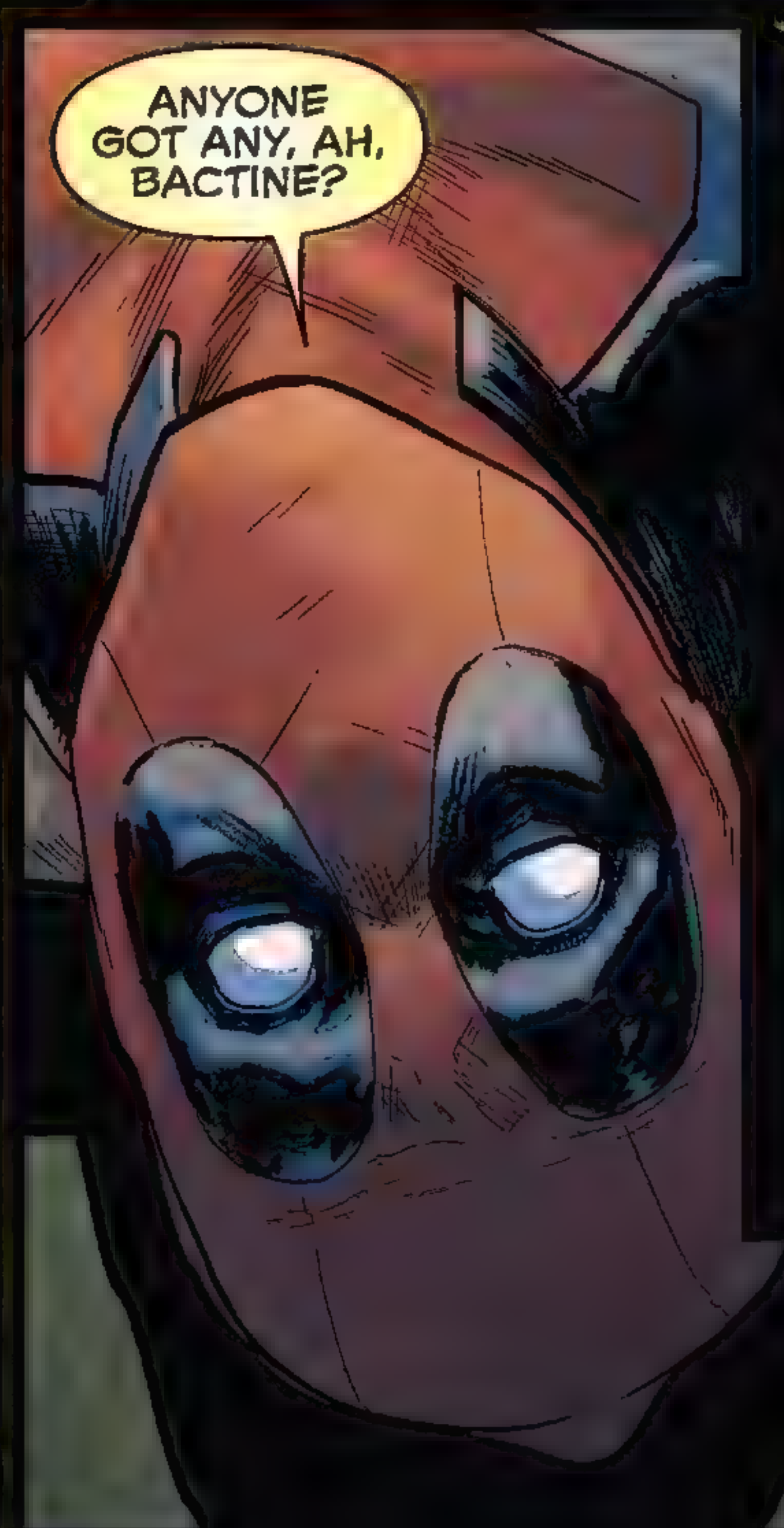








USUALLY I'M NOT A FAN OF PANEL BORDER BREAKS, BUT THIS...



ANYONE GOT ANY, AH, BACTINE?



THAT IS NOT WHAT I TOLD YOU TO DO!

TO BE FAIR, I COULD BARELY HEAR YOU OVER THE SOUND OF THE VOICE ALREADY IN MY HEAD.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, JESSICA...YOU INVITED DEADPOOL INTO THIS?

WHY?

I ASKED HIM TO HUNT DOWN SOME LEADS ON DIAMONDBACK.

BECAUSE WE'RE TEN STEPS BEHIND, DEVILBOY!

(DAREDEVIL.)

AND HE RUNS IN CIRCLES WE DON'T.

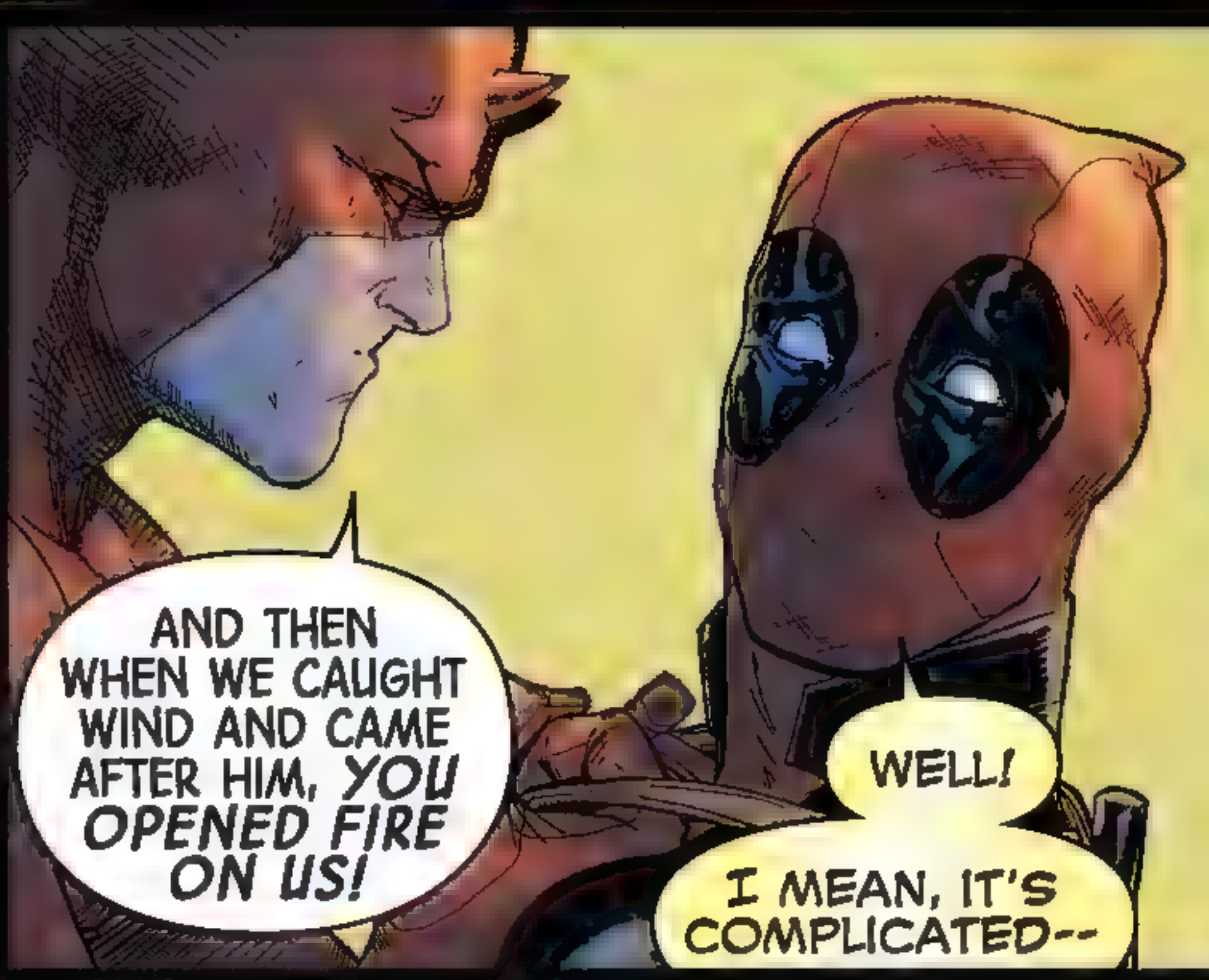
YOU CAN SAY THAT @#\$\$ AGAIN.

THEN WHY DID YOU TURN ON US?!

NO! WHAT? NOOOO!

THE PUNISHER WAS JUST ABOUT TO ASSASSINATE "HOT STUFF" HERE, AND I STOPPED HIM.

THAT IS FACT!



AND THEN WHEN WE CAUGHT WIND AND CAME AFTER HIM, YOU OPENED FIRE ON US!

WELL!

I MEAN, IT'S COMPLICATED--



BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA  
BUDDA

OH MY  
GOD!

IT'S  
EVERYTHING  
MOMMY SAID  
IT WOULD  
BE!







YOU KNOW I'M BULLETPROOF.

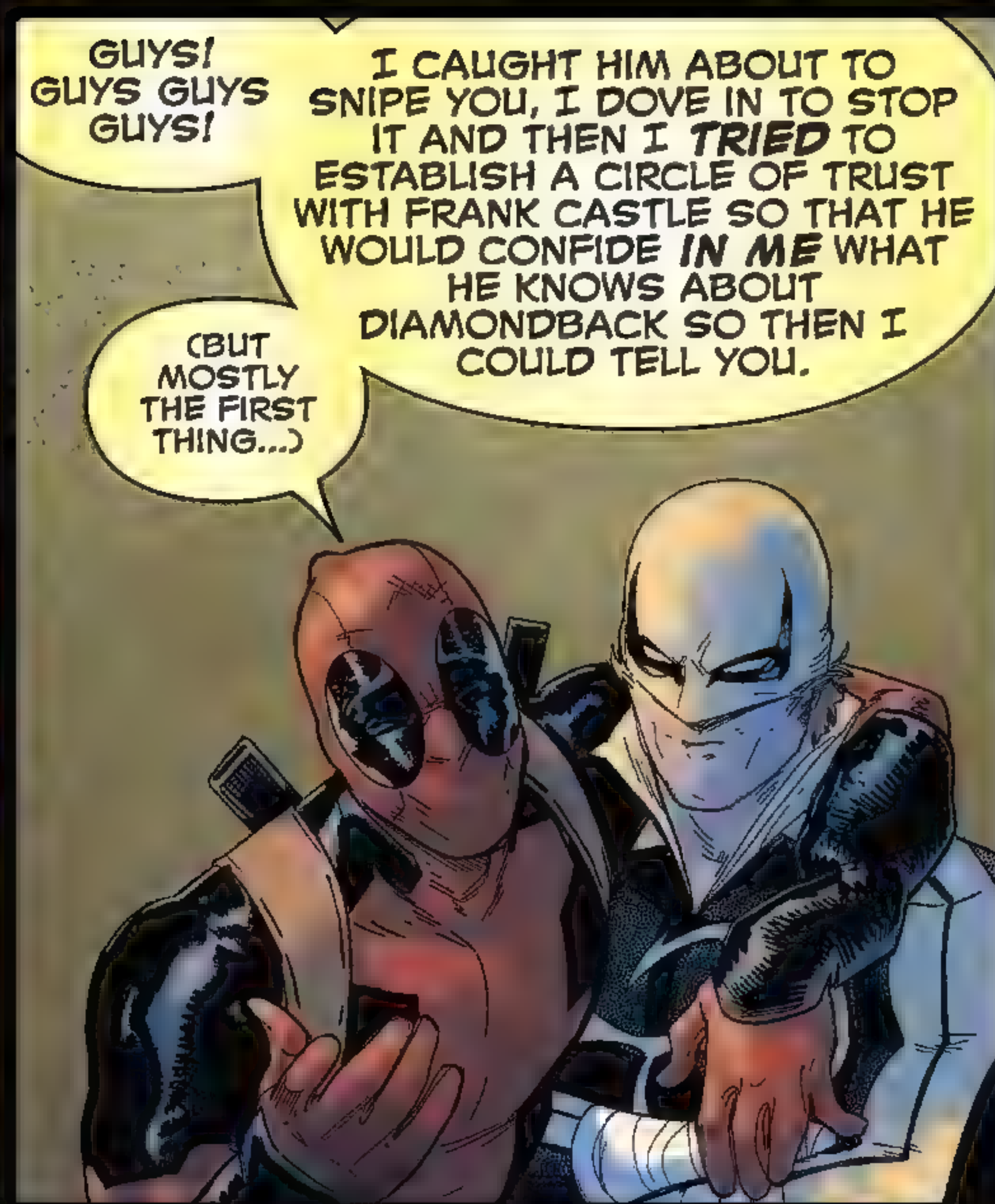
THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SOOOOOHHAAHH FOR ME.

IT'S ALL I THINK ABOUT WHEN I LOOK AT YOU!

THE FACT THAT I'M NOT SHOOTING AT YOU RIGHT NOW SHOWS THE MOST SELF-CONTROL I'VE EVER SHOWN!

(IT'S A COMPLICATED FEELING.)

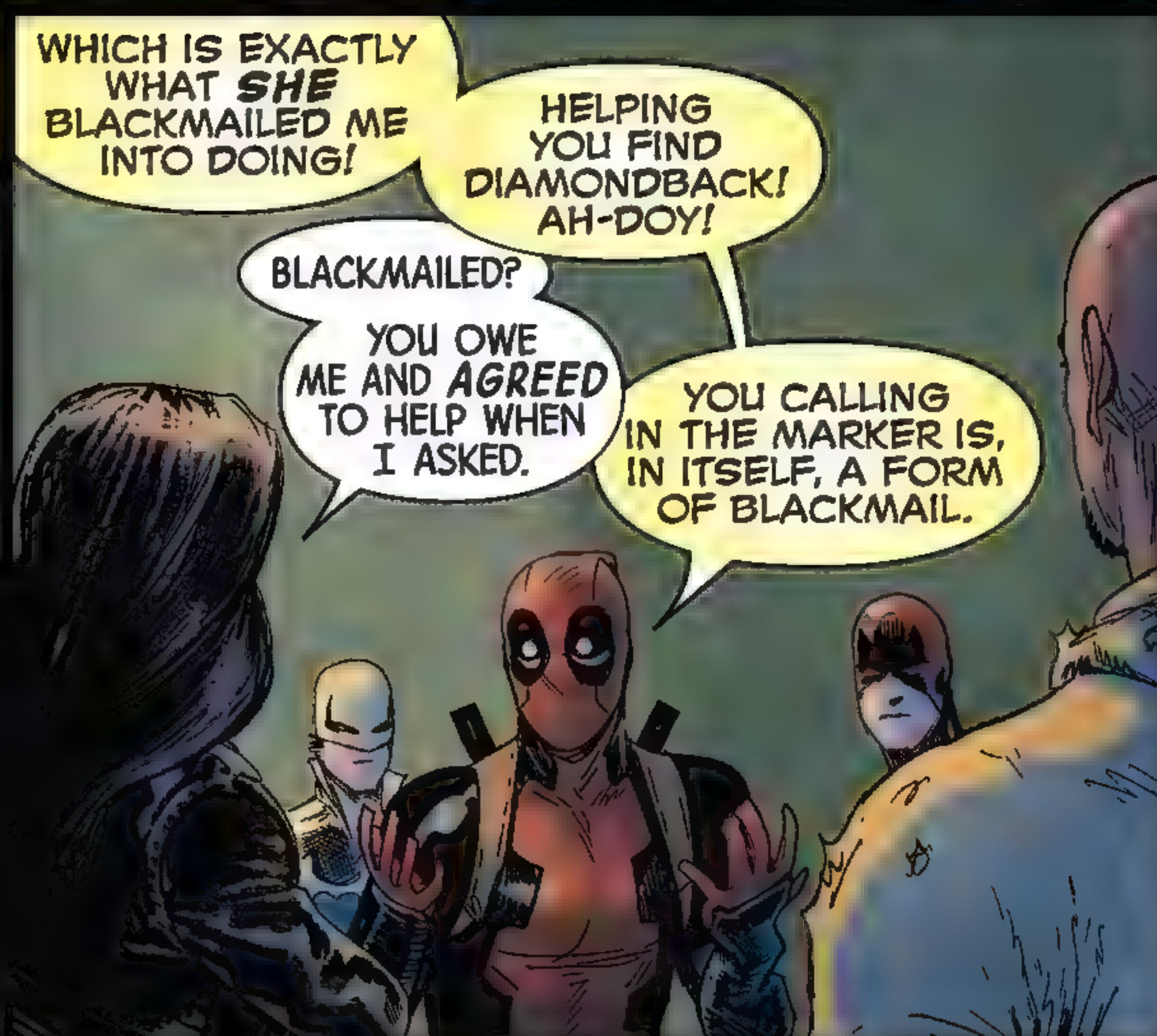
TELL ME THAT'S NOT REALLY IT.



GUYS! GUYS GUYS GUYS!

I CAUGHT HIM ABOUT TO SNIPE YOU, I DOVE IN TO STOP IT AND THEN I **TRIED** TO ESTABLISH A CIRCLE OF TRUST WITH FRANK CASTLE SO THAT HE WOULD CONFIDE **IN ME** WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT DIAMONDBACK SO THEN I COULD TELL YOU.

(BUT MOSTLY THE FIRST THING...)



WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT **SHE** BLACKMAILED ME INTO DOING!

HELPING YOU FIND DIAMONDBACK! AH-DOY!

BLACKMAILED?

YOU OWE ME AND AGREED TO HELP WHEN I ASKED.

YOU CALLING IN THE MARKER IS, IN ITSELF, A FORM OF BLACKMAIL.

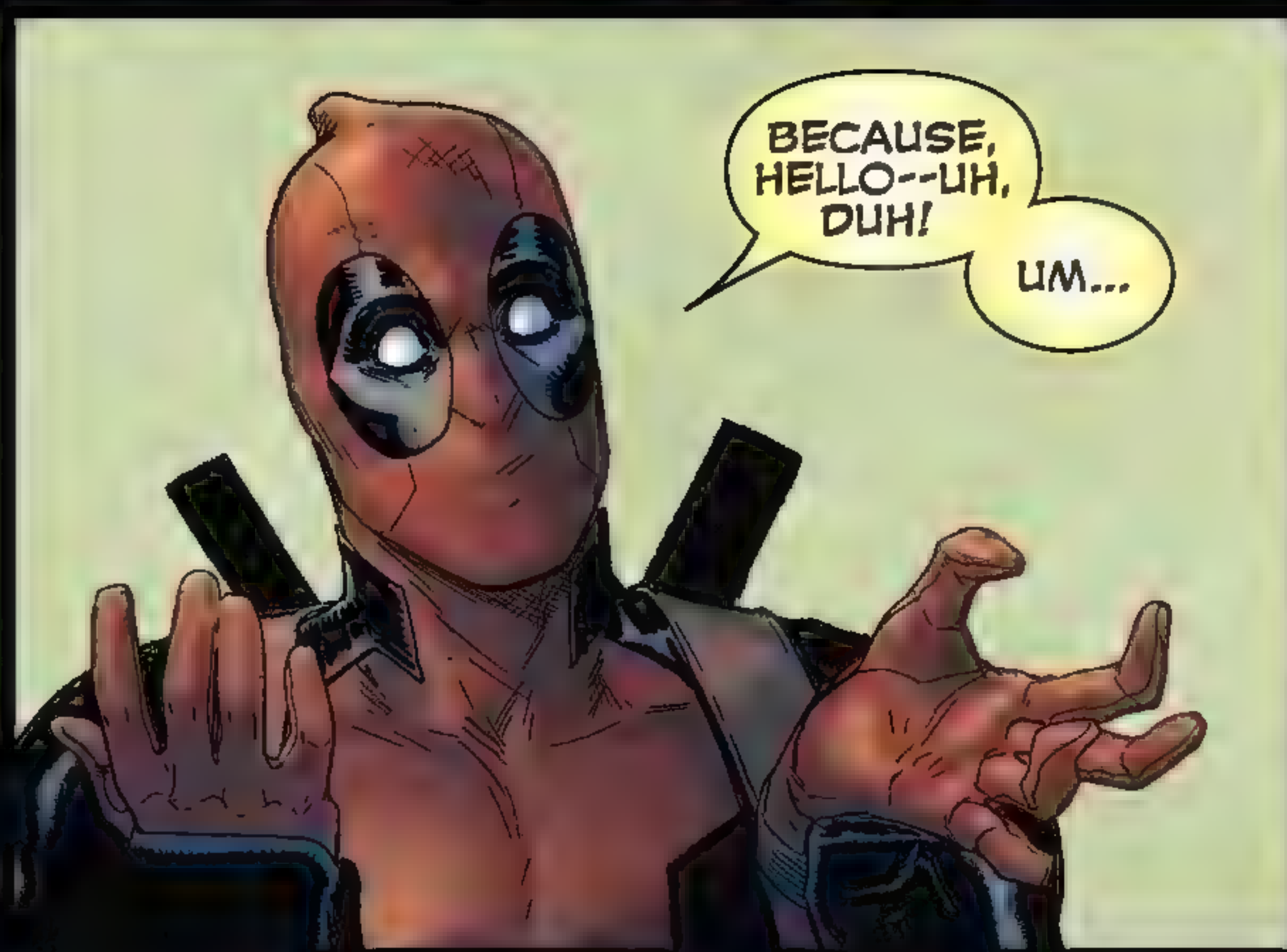


BABE...

...HIT HIM AGAIN.

WITH YOUR ENTIRE FIST.

HOW WOULD FRANK CASTLE TRUST **YOU** IF **YOU'RE** THE ONE THAT STOPPED HIM FROM ASSASSINATING **ME**?



BECAUSE, HELLO--UH, DUH!

UM...



HMM.

IT MADE SENSE IN MY HEAD.

I CAN TAKE IT BACK TO MY DESK AND WORKSHOP IT.







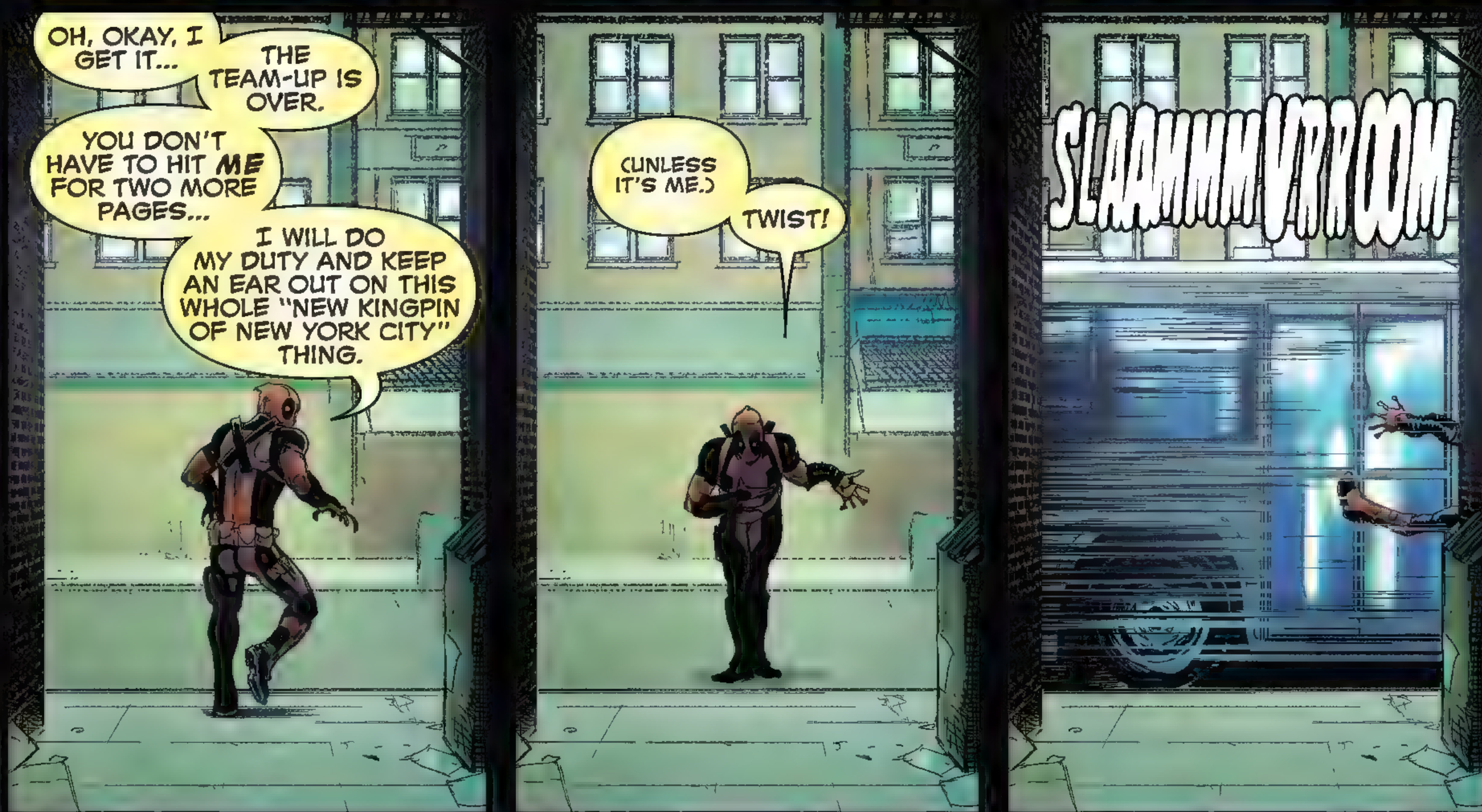
OKAY,  
SURE, I SEE  
IT NOW.

BUT, HEY,  
**THE PUNISHER**  
**IS IN JAIL FOR**  
**THE NEXT SEVEN**  
**MINUTES.**

WE  
DID THAT.  
US.

HIGH  
FIVES ALL  
AROUND.

LET'S GO  
BACK TO TITANS  
TOWER AND TAKE  
A SHOWER  
TOGETHER.



OH, OKAY, I  
GET IT...

THE  
TEAM-UP IS  
OVER.

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO HIT **ME**  
FOR TWO MORE  
PAGES...

I WILL DO  
MY DUTY AND KEEP  
AN EAR OUT ON THIS  
WHOLE "NEW KINGPIN  
OF NEW YORK CITY"  
THING.

(UNLESS  
IT'S ME.)

TWIST!

SLAAMMM VRRROOM



IS HE  
GONE  
GONE?

HOLD  
ON...

YES.

'KAY,  
WELL...

I DON'T  
WANT TO POINT  
FINGERS, BUT...





WHAT  
THE ACTUAL  
@%!#@%\$?

YOU  
**UNDERSTAND**  
HE IS CERTIFIABLY  
INSANE!

OH?

**REALLY?**

I ONCE  
SAW HIM, IN FRONT  
OF CHILDREN, TAKE A  
MEXICAN DINNER  
ENTREE AND---



OH, WE'RE  
**TOSSING LABELS**  
AROUND?

**YES, I TRIED**  
TO THINK OUTSIDE  
THE BOX TO GET AN EDGE  
ON THIS, BUT BUDDY, I'M  
NOT TAKING AN OUNCE OF  
@#%\$ FROM YOU BECAUSE  
I HAVE NO IDEA **WHO**  
**THE HELL YOU**  
**ARE!**



YOU DRESS LIKE THE DEVIL  
AND, YES, YOU SEEM SO  
@#%\$ FAMILIAR, BUT YOU  
ARE **NOT TELLING ME**  
**WHAT'S NUTS!**

WE WERE  
**JUST TALKING**  
ABOUT THIS BEFORE  
THE PUNISHER TRIED  
TO WHACK YOU...

I...  
KNOW.



AND IF  
PUNISHER WERE  
SPECIFICALLY  
**TARGETING YOU**  
NOW...

ACCORDING  
TO DEADPOOL,  
BUT SURE...

HEY...

YOU  
GET IT,  
RIGHT?







I'M YOUR  
LAWYER.

IT'S  
ME...MATTHEW  
MURDOCK.

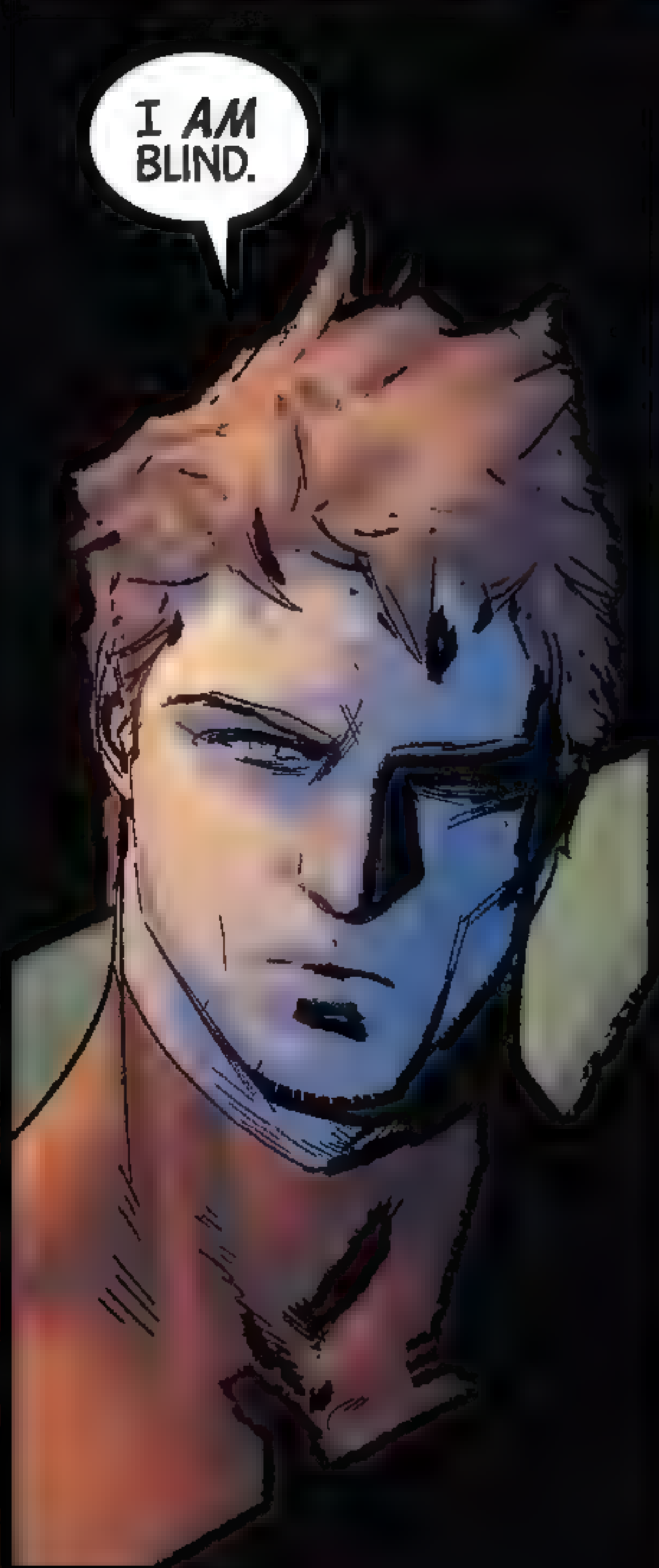


I  
KNEW  
IT.

WHAT  
ABOUT GARY THE  
PRIZEFIGHTER?

SO YOU  
**PRETEND** TO BE  
BLIND SO PEOPLE  
WON'T KNOW YOU'RE  
REALLY--?

DUDE, THAT  
IS **HIGHLY**  
PROBLEMATIC  
FOR ME.



I AM  
BLIND.



OH! DUDE,  
THAT IS  
AWESOME.

THERE WAS  
THIS STREET-  
FIGHTER NAMED  
STICK WHO  
WAS BLIND.

HE  
WAS MY  
SENSEI.

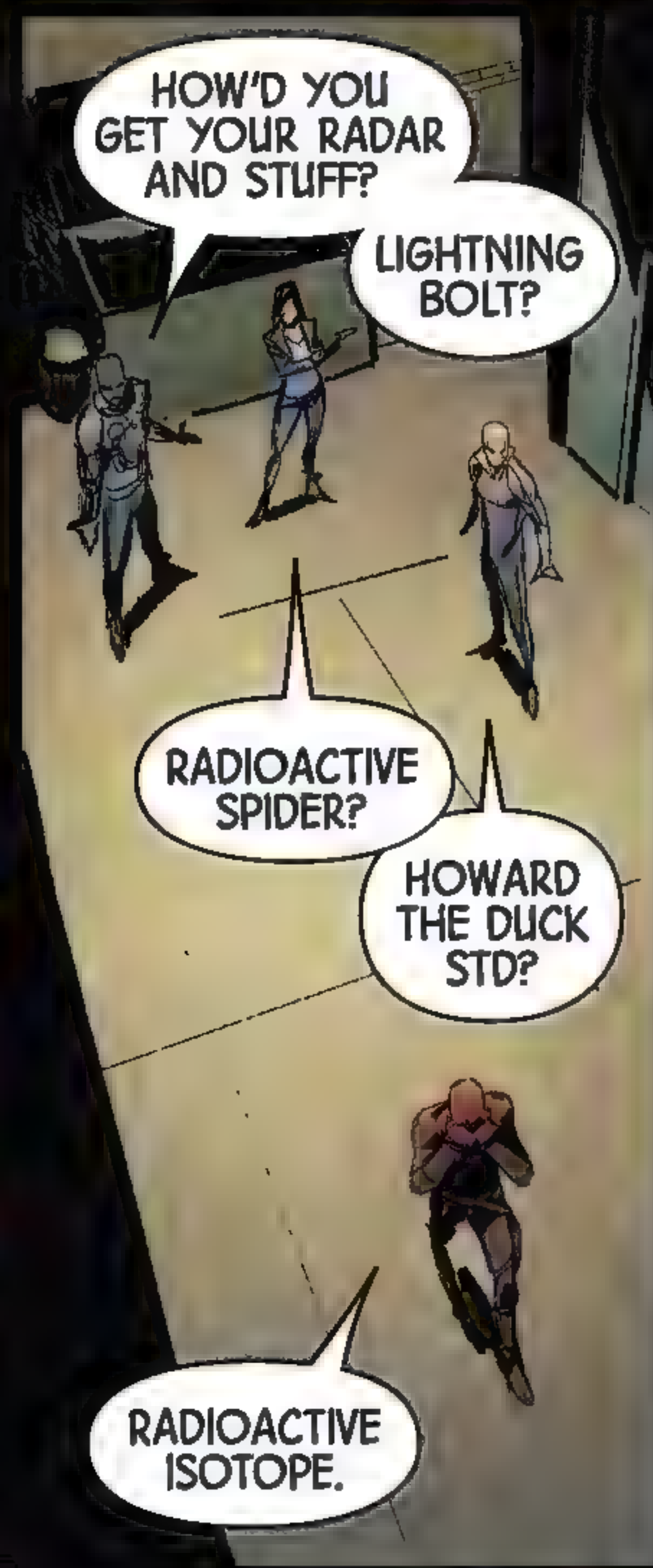


HEY!  
NO WAY.

HE  
USED TO  
BEAT ME.

OH...

NO  
WAY.



HOW'D YOU  
GET YOUR RADAR  
AND STUFF?

LIGHTNING  
BOLT?

RADIOACTIVE  
SPIDER?

HOWARD  
THE DUCK  
STD?

RADIOACTIVE  
ISOTOPE.





WHERE ARE WE?

WHICH ROOM?

739.



THERE YOU ARE!

NYPD. FRANK QUAID. SHE JUST UP AND LEFT?

SHE JUST UP AND DISAPPEARED.



HEY, THIS IS PALMER DOWN AT MT. SINAI WITH CAPTAIN QUAID. WE HAVE A 10-80.

FELICIA HARDY IS MISSING.

YEAH.

THE **BLACK CAT** IS ON THE LOOSE.

WE'LL GO THROUGH THE BUILDING SECURITY--

YES, I KNOW HOW TO QUESTION THE--





SO,  
**DIAMONDBACK**  
HAD YOU FROM DAY  
ONE, TOO.

MAYBE.

HE  
KNOWS  
YOUR TRUE  
IDENTITY.

I DON'T  
THINK HE  
DOES.

THE WAY HE  
REACTS TO ME  
IN UNIFORM--HIS  
HEARTBEAT--

--I THINK  
SOMEONE TOLD  
HIM IT WOULD GET  
MY ATTENTION.

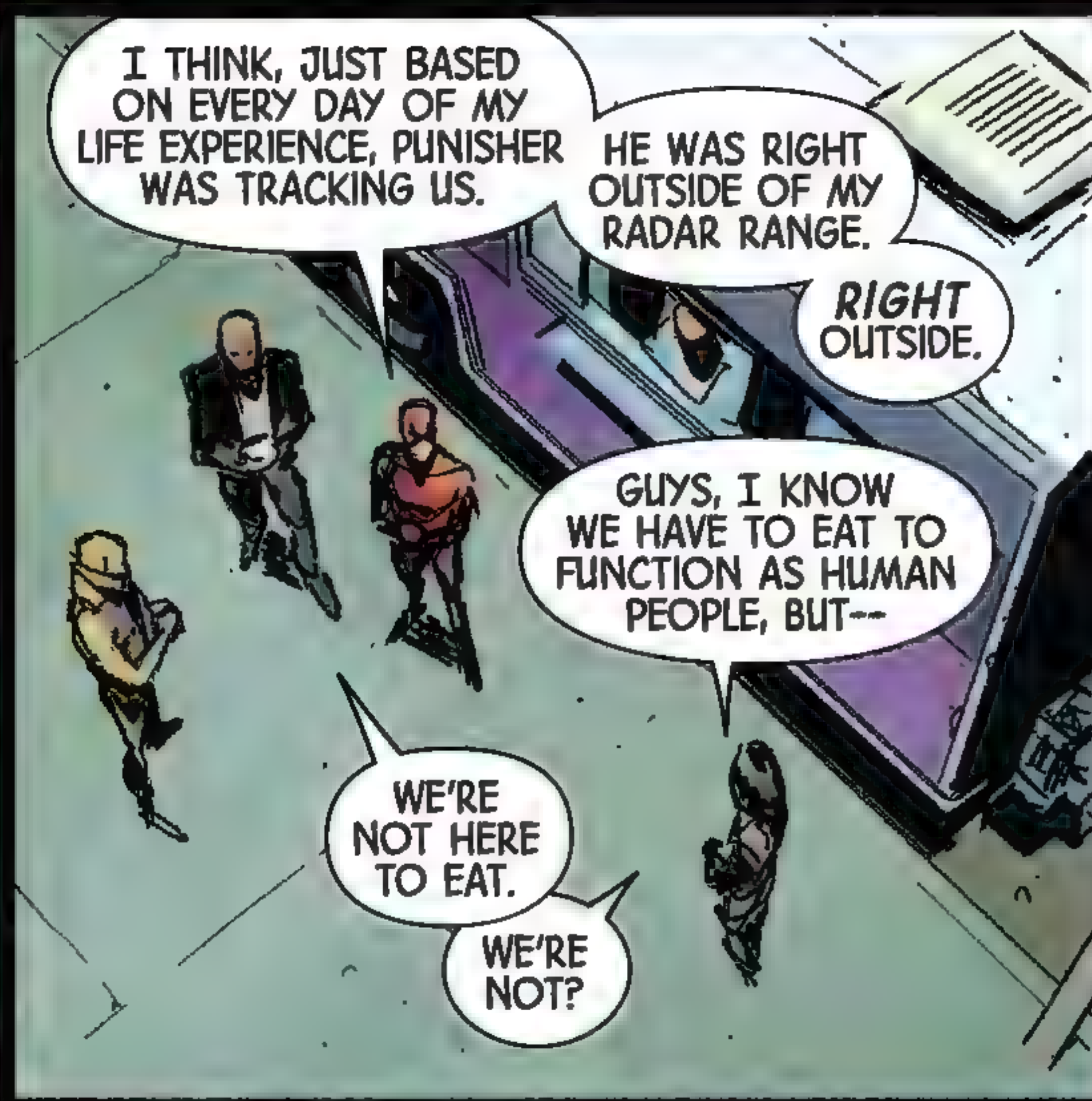


I DON'T LIKE  
ANY OF THIS.

AND I *STILL*  
DON'T GET WHY  
**PUNISHER** WAS TRYING  
TO RUB YOU OUT  
RIGHT IN FRONT  
OF US.

YOU KNOW,  
THE MORE I THINK  
ABOUT IT, I THINK HE  
WAS JUST SPYING  
ON US WITH HIS  
SNIPER SCOPE.

YOU THINK  
**DEADPOOL**  
DEADPOOLED  
IT.



I THINK, JUST BASED  
ON EVERY DAY OF MY  
LIFE EXPERIENCE, **PUNISHER**  
WAS TRACKING US.

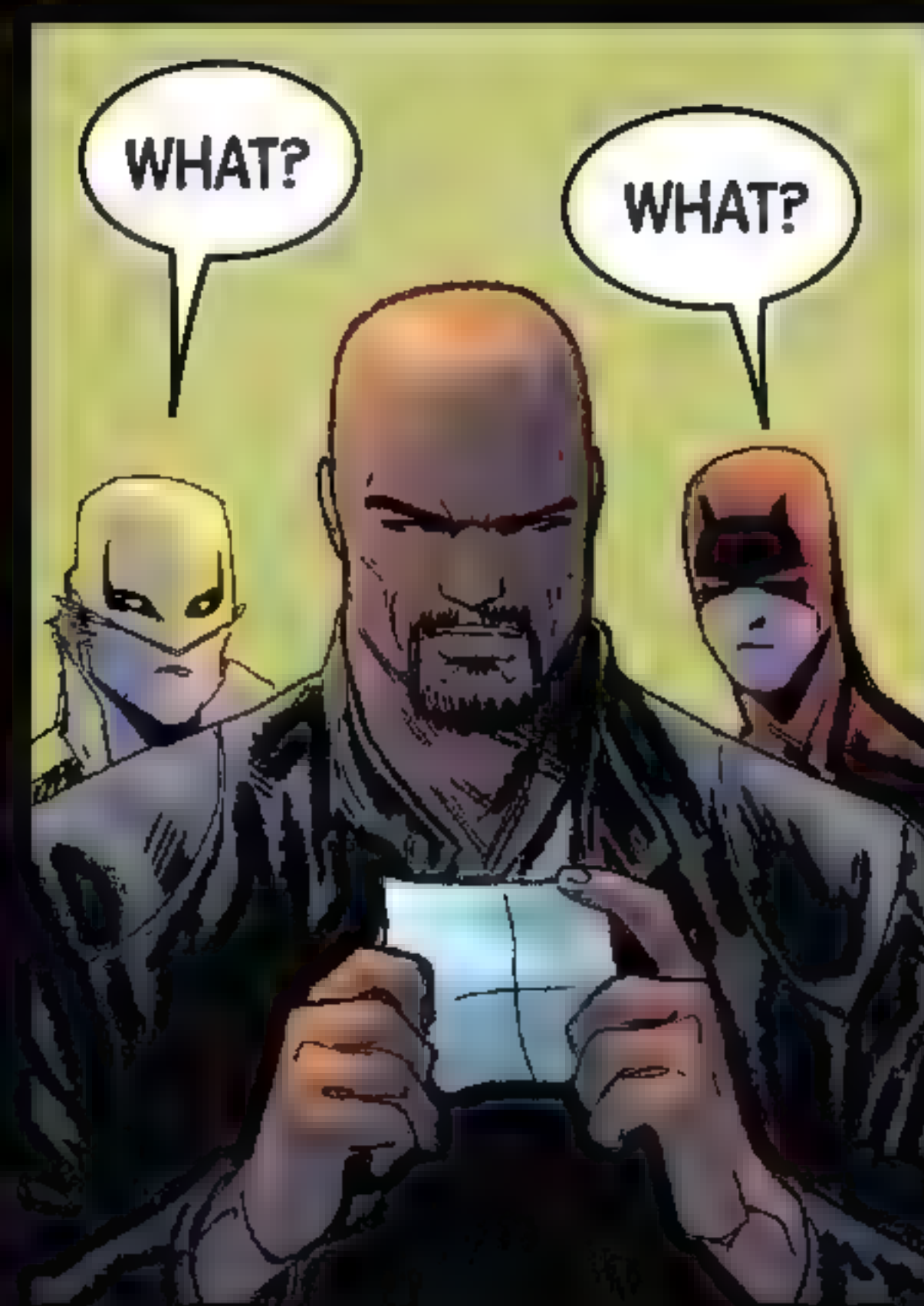
HE WAS RIGHT  
OUTSIDE OF MY  
RADAR RANGE.

RIGHT  
OUTSIDE.

GUYS, I KNOW  
WE HAVE TO EAT TO  
FUNCTION AS HUMAN  
PEOPLE, BUT--

WE'RE  
NOT HERE  
TO EAT.

WE'RE  
NOT?



WHAT?

WHAT?



YOU  
WERE RIGHT,  
JESS...

CHAOS  
BRINGS NOTHING  
BUT MORE  
CHAOS...

PARKER  
ROBBINS IS  
HERE.

OH, I  
HATE THAT  
GUY!

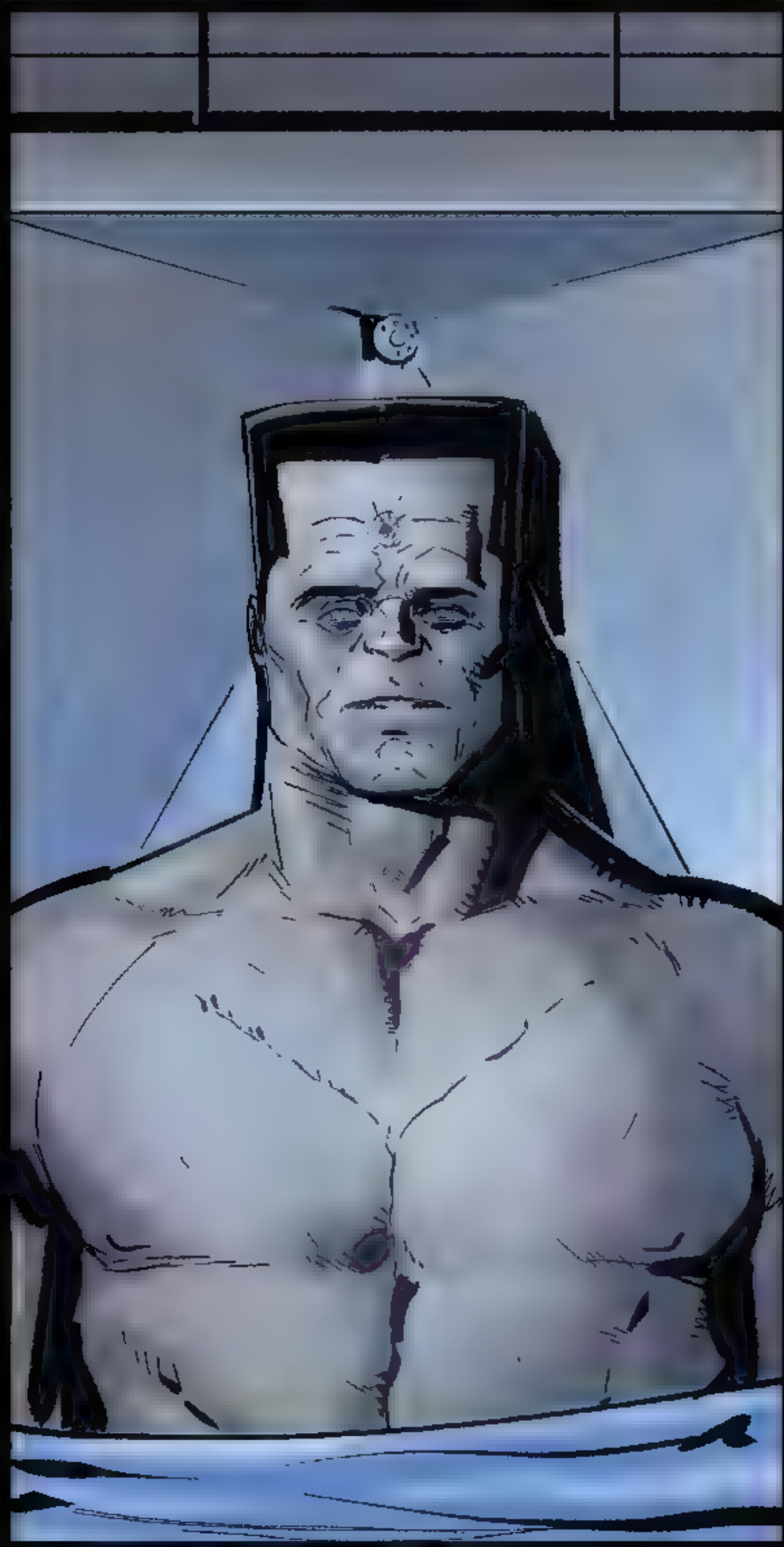
WHO'S  
PARKER  
ROBBINS?

WHERE  
DO I KNOW  
THAT NAME?



YOU  
ONLY KNOW  
HIM AS...









HEY,  
HAMMERHEAD,  
'MEMBER ME?  
DON'T TRY TO  
TALK.

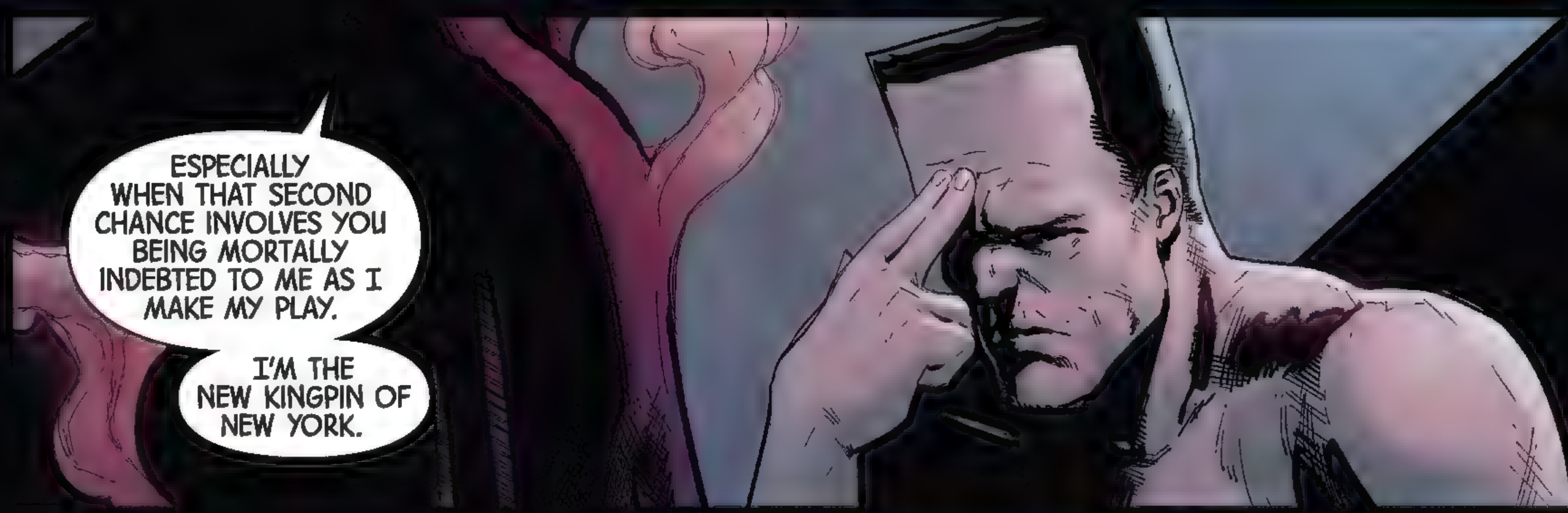
YOU'VE JUST  
EXPERIENCED  
SOMETHING.

JJDOTOME?

A NORN  
STONE  
RESURRECTION.  
YOU'RE  
WELCOME.

GAVE  
YOU A BIG,  
BIG SECOND  
CHANCE.

I'M ALL  
ABOUT SECOND  
CHANCES.



ESPECIALLY  
WHEN THAT SECOND  
CHANCE INVOLVES YOU  
BEING MORTALLY  
INDEBTED TO ME AS I  
MAKE MY PLAY.

I'M THE  
NEW KINGPIN OF  
NEW YORK.



LET  
EVERYONE  
KNOW, WILL  
YOU?





NO. 6 LEGACY HEADSHOT VARIANT BY  
**MIKE McKONE, ANDY TROY & RACHELLE ROSENBERG**







# THE DEFENDERS



I'M WITH--WE'RE CALLING OURSELVES THE DEFENDERS.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF US?

IT'S ME, LUKE CAGE, IRON FIST AND DAREDEVIL, AND WE ARE **DESPERATELY** TRYING TO SHUT DOWN THIS--THIS GANG WAR BUILDING UP BETWEEN POTENTIAL KINGPINS IN THE NEW YORK CITY AREA.

HAVE YOU BOTHERED TO LOOK OUTSIDE? WILSON FISK IS NO LONGER THE KINGPIN AND EVERYONE FROM THE BLACK CAT TO DIAMONDBACK IS LOOKING TO GRAB EVERYTHING THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON.

NOW, I KNOW THE POLICE IN THIS CITY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL, AND GOD KNOWS I KNOW THERE'S AN ALIEN INVASION AROUND EVERY CORNER, BUT IF WE DON'T SHUT DOWN WHAT'S HAPPENING--AND I MEAN TOMORROW--PEOPLE ARE GOING TO **DIE**.

DIAMONDBACK HAS A NEW COSMETIC DRUG ON THE STREET THAT IS **KILLING PEOPLE**.

IT GIVES THEM POWERS FOR A **SECOND** AND THEN IT **KILLS THEM**.

**KILLS.**

SO I'M ASKING YOU FOR A HUGE FAVOR, AND I KNOW I DON'T DESERVE IT...





...BUT MISTY, I NEED TO TALK TO THE PUNISHER.

JESSICA JONES, THIS IS A POLICE DEPARTMENT, NOT A--

MISTY.

I KNOW YOU HATE ME.

AND, HEY, NO SECRET, I DON'T CARE FOR YOU.

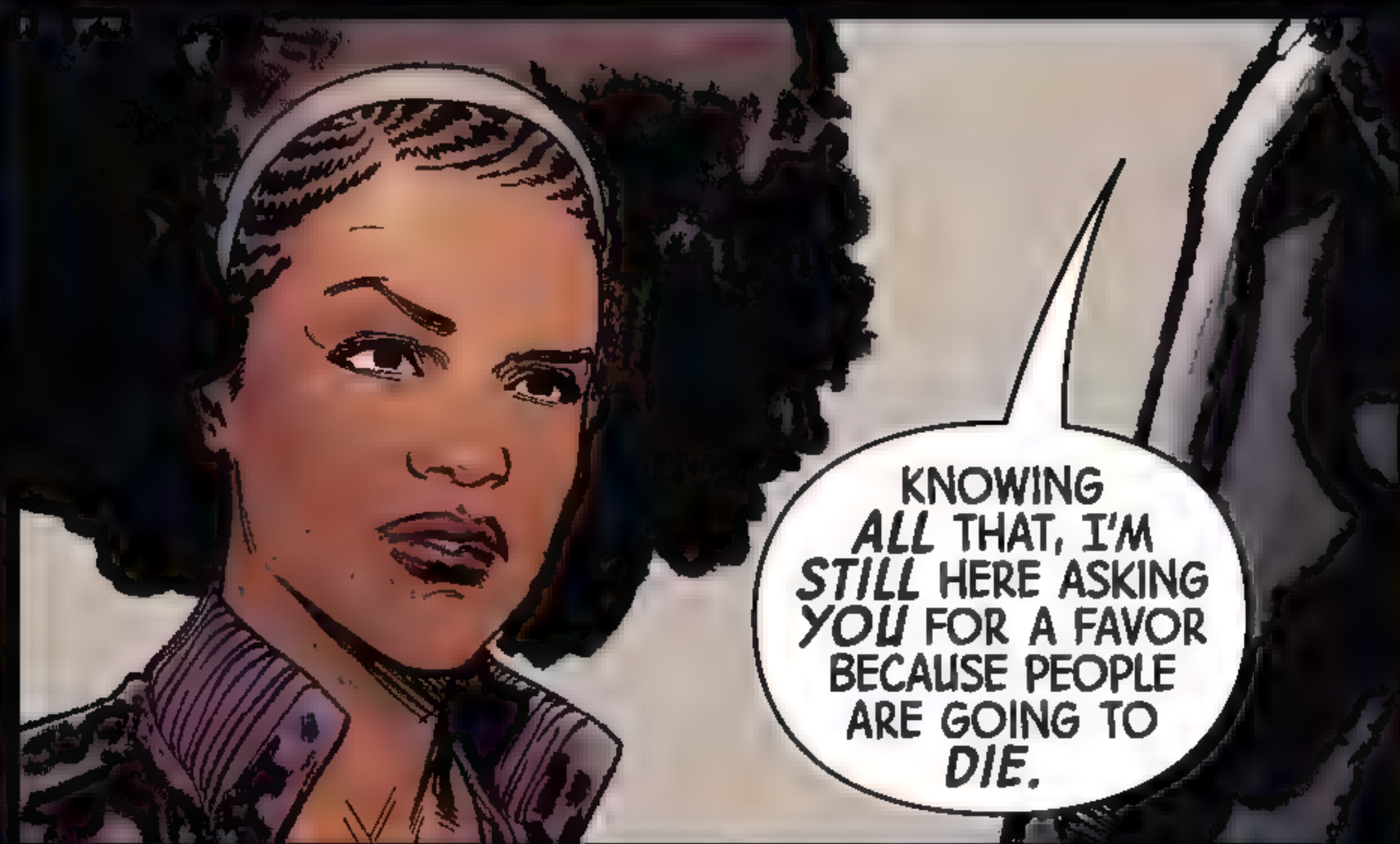


A 17-YEAR RUNNING GAG IS NOT EASY TO PULL OFF!



I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR YOU BECAUSE, WELL, YOU ONCE TOLD MY HUSBAND I'M A "HOT GARBAGE FIRE" AND THAT HE SHOULD STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM ME BEFORE I GOT HIM KILLED WITH MY LOSERNESS.

AND YOUR METAL ARM SMELLS WEIRD TO ME.



KNOWING ALL THAT, I'M STILL HERE ASKING YOU FOR A FAVOR BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE.



GET ME IN A ROOM WITH THE PUNISHER.



I WAS WRONG.

YOU AND LUKE ARE PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER.

GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, JONES, AND LET THE PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT...DO SOME PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

GO FIND SOME ALIEN NINJAS TO PUNCH.

I'M VERY TIRED AND I'M--



DID YOU NOT HEAR--?

MY BRAIN IS THE MULTIVERSE, YO!

YOU DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL I THOUGHT OF YOU!!!



DAMN IT, GARY!

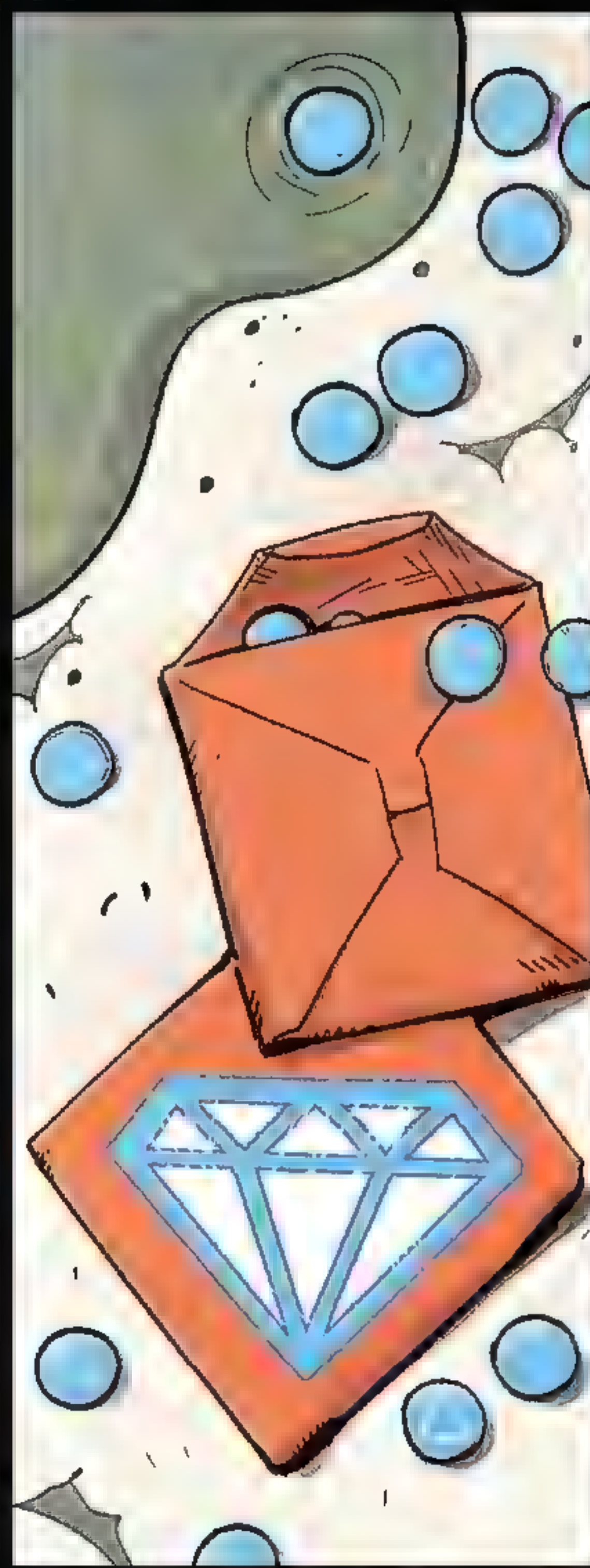
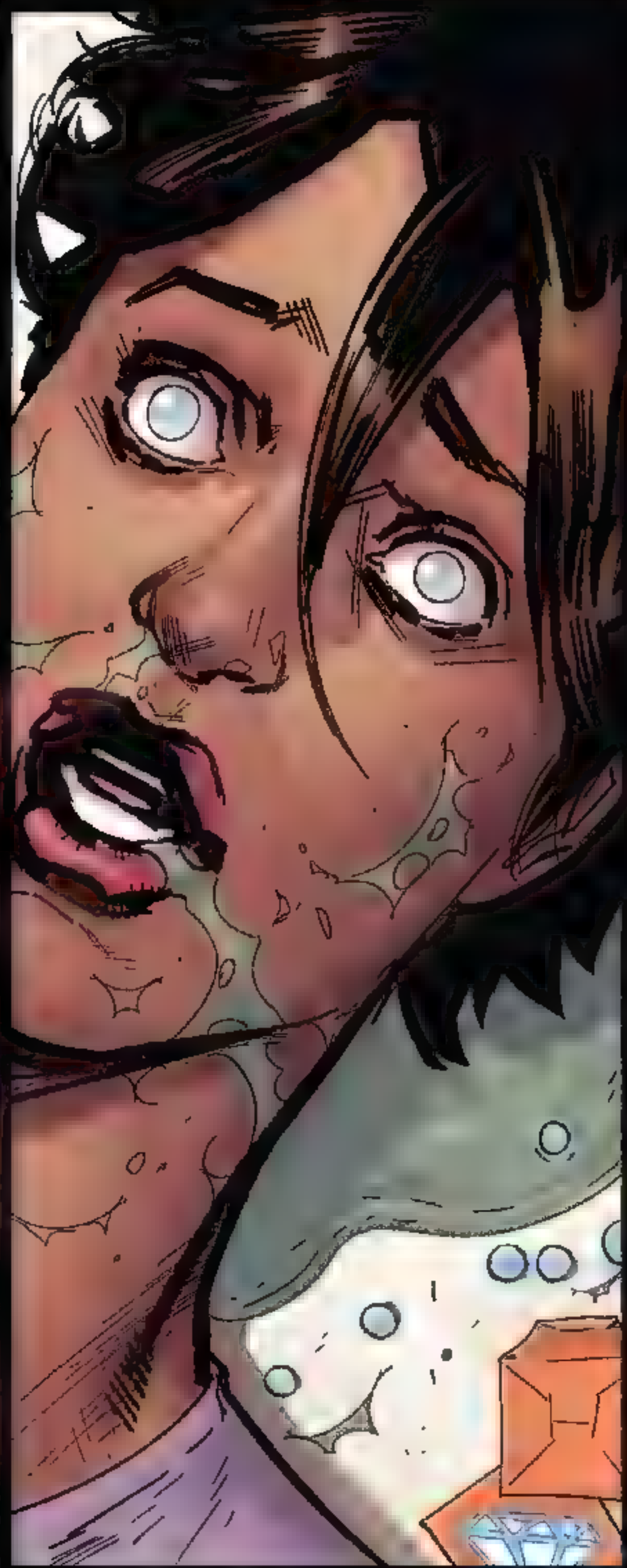
THE ELDERS OF THE COSMOS DIED FOR OUR SINS!

SETTLE DOWN, KID!

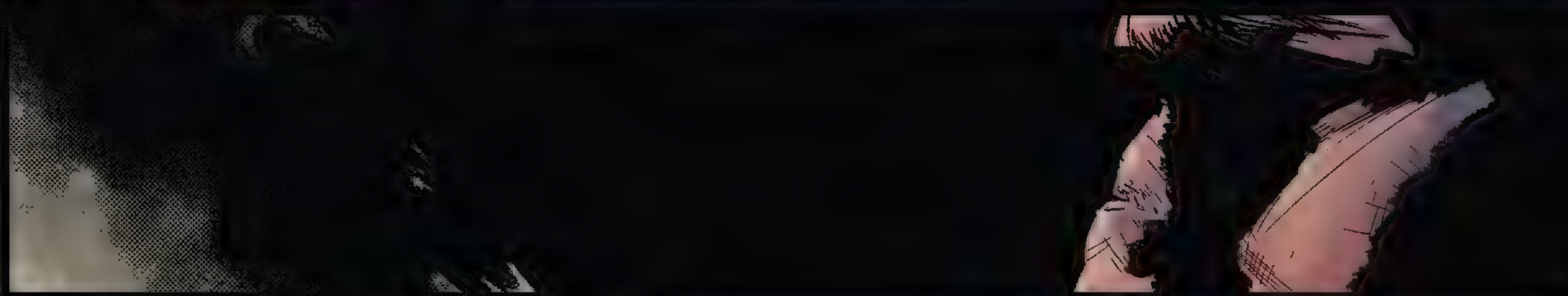
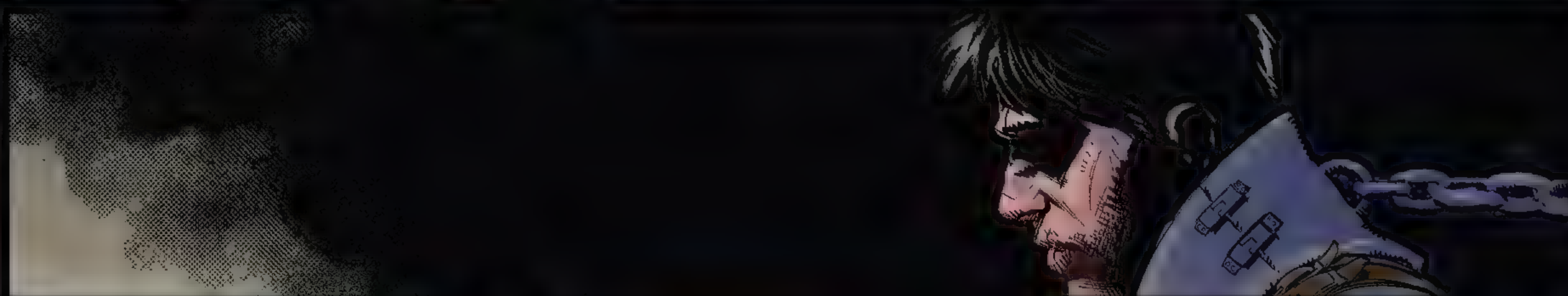
WHOA!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A DEAD UNIVERSE!

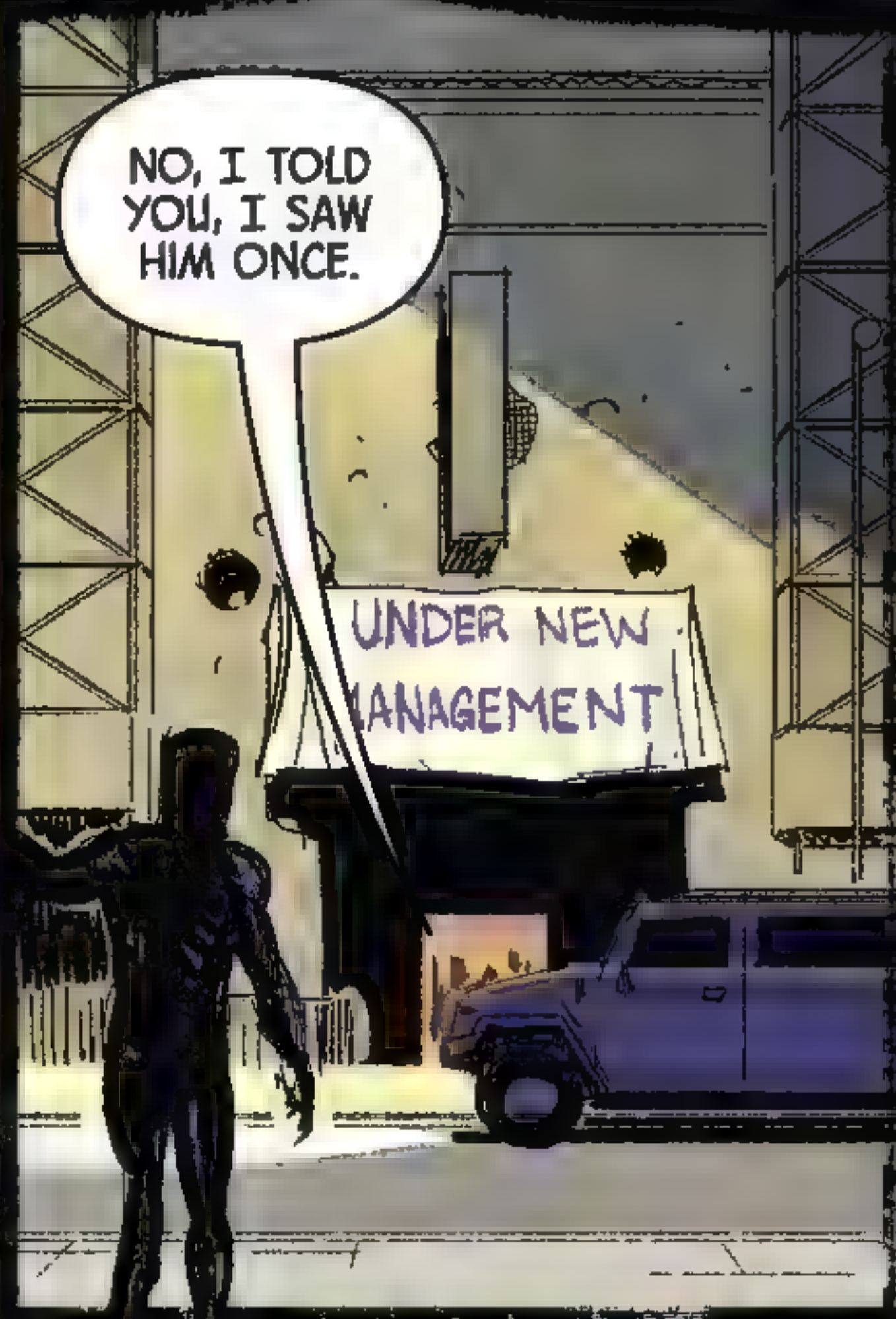
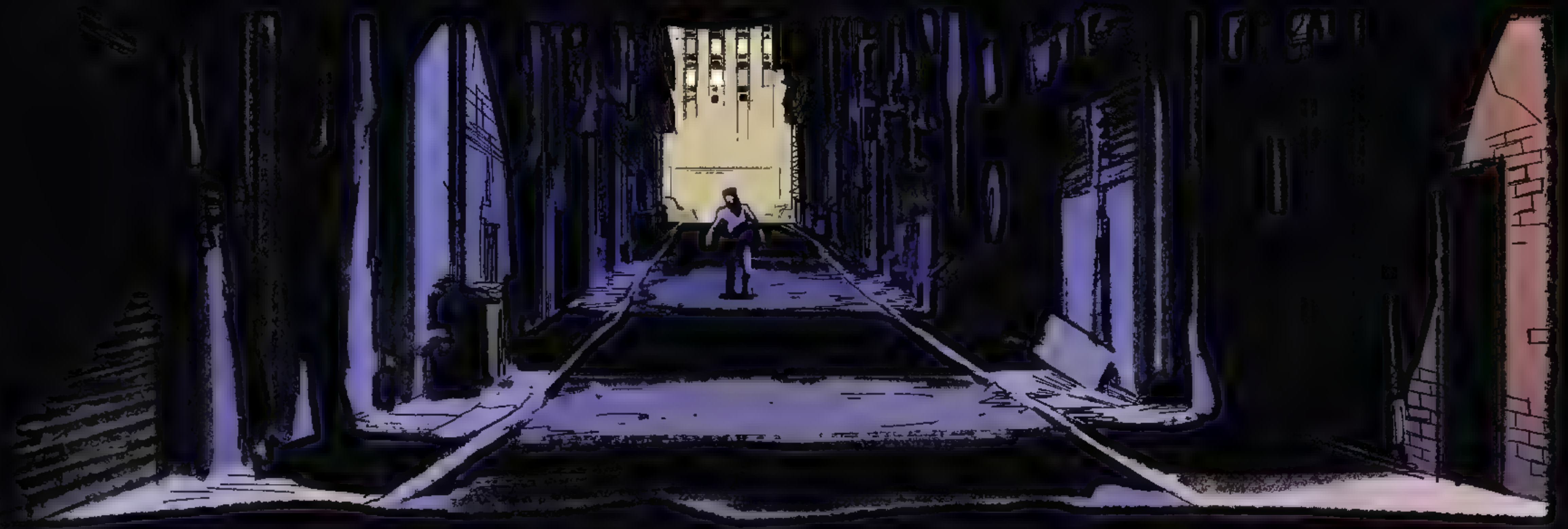
















...THINGS.

THIS IS IT,  
DIAMONDBACK.

YOU'RE  
DONE.



YOU A  
COP NOW,  
CAGE?

YOU'RE  
COMING  
WITH US.

OR?

OR I TAKE YOUR CAR  
AND I ROLL IT UP INTO  
A BALL AND I THROW  
IT INTO THE EAST  
RIVER.

WITH  
YOU IN  
IT.

DESE  
DEM?

UGH!

(IF THAT  
LAST PART  
WASN'T ENTIRELY  
CLEAR.)

BOY!  
YOU THINK I  
WASN'T READY  
FOR YOU?





THESE  
ARE THE  
DEFENDERS,  
TITANIA?

GUESS SO,  
FIXER.

OH, HEY,  
CAGE, STILL  
MARRIED, I  
SEE?

(STUPID.)



GREAT.

GREAT.



CAGE, I  
DONE TOLD YOU  
THE DAY I GOT  
BACK.

RULES  
ARE DIFFERENT  
NOW.

THIS ISN'T  
THE SAME GAME  
KINGPIN PLAYED.

WHAT MR.  
DIAMONDBACK  
IS SAYIN' IS,  
GO HOME.

GAME'S  
CHANGED.

HEY! I TRASHED  
YOUR WORLDS AND  
I'M GONNA TRASH  
YOUR SOUL IF YOU  
DON'T FIND ANOTHER  
DAMN HOBBY.

BUT I  
LIKE *THIS*  
HOBBY.

HE  
REALLY  
DOES.



OKAY.



I DID  
NOT AGREE  
TO THIS!







SORRY.

SORRY.

MY BAD.

CRASH



IT'S CAGE.

CLUB ULTIMATE.

BRING EVERYONE.

YEAH, RIGHT NOW.



DOES ANYONE ELSE JUST MARVEL AT WHAT CAGE SEES IN THIS &%\$#@?

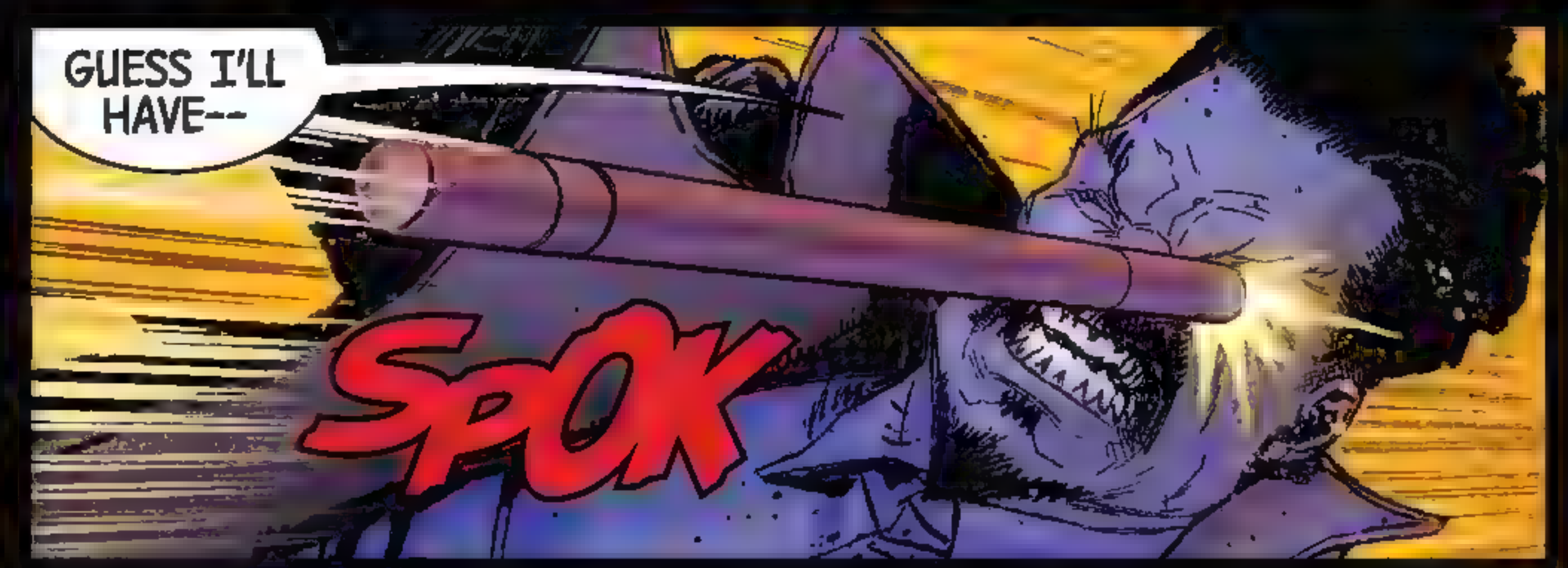
NO.

LOVE IS LOVE.

EXACTLY.

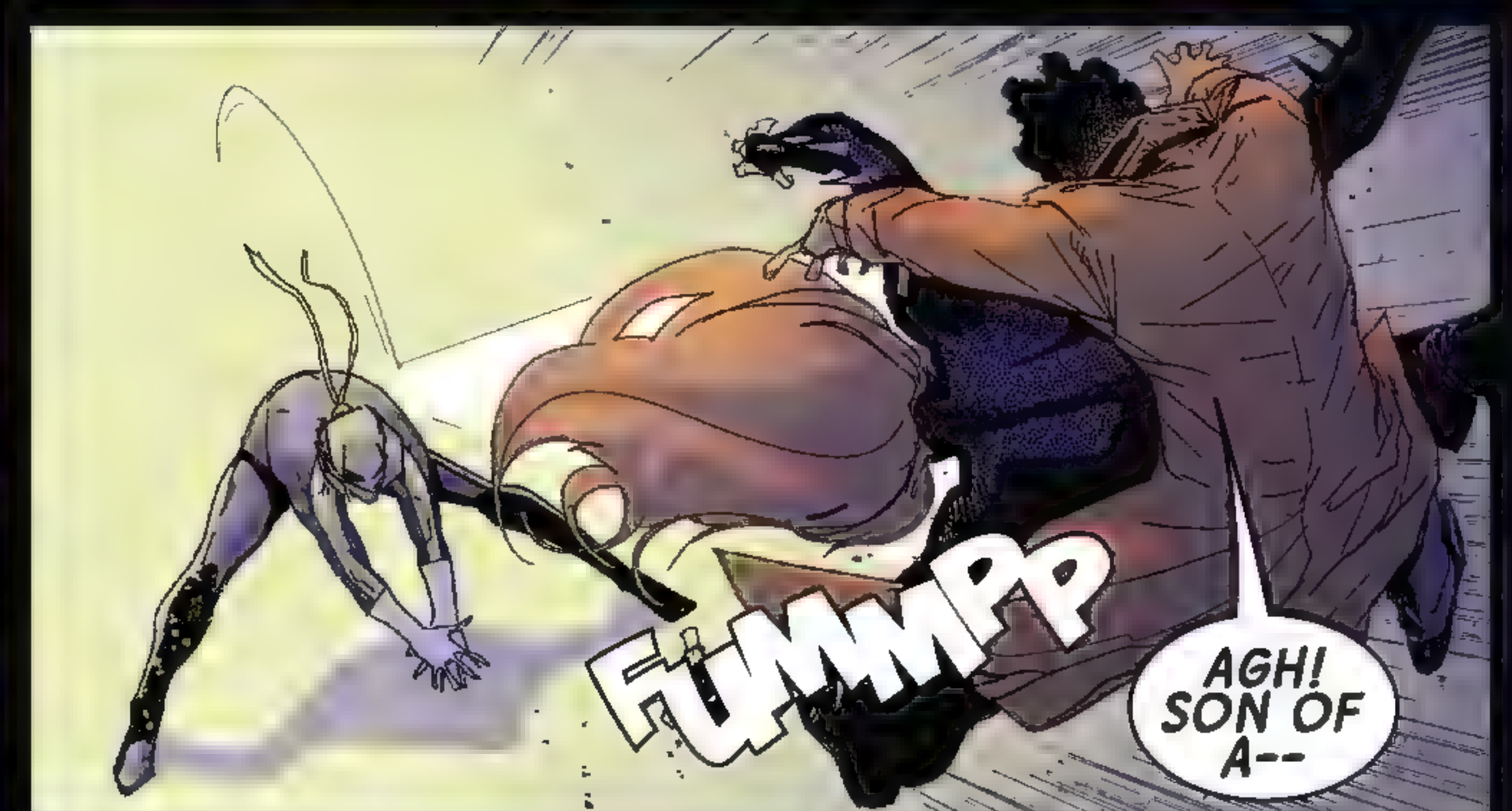
SPACK

YOU HEALED UP NICE FROM ME BREAKING YOUR BACK, FIST.



GUESS I'LL HAVE--

SPOK



AGH! SON OF A--







WE GOT 'EM  
ON THE ROPES,  
GUYS.

YOU'RE IN  
OVER YOUR  
HEAD, TRAILER  
PARK.

MOONSTONE,  
I'LL PAY YOU  
MONEY TO STOP  
TALKING.

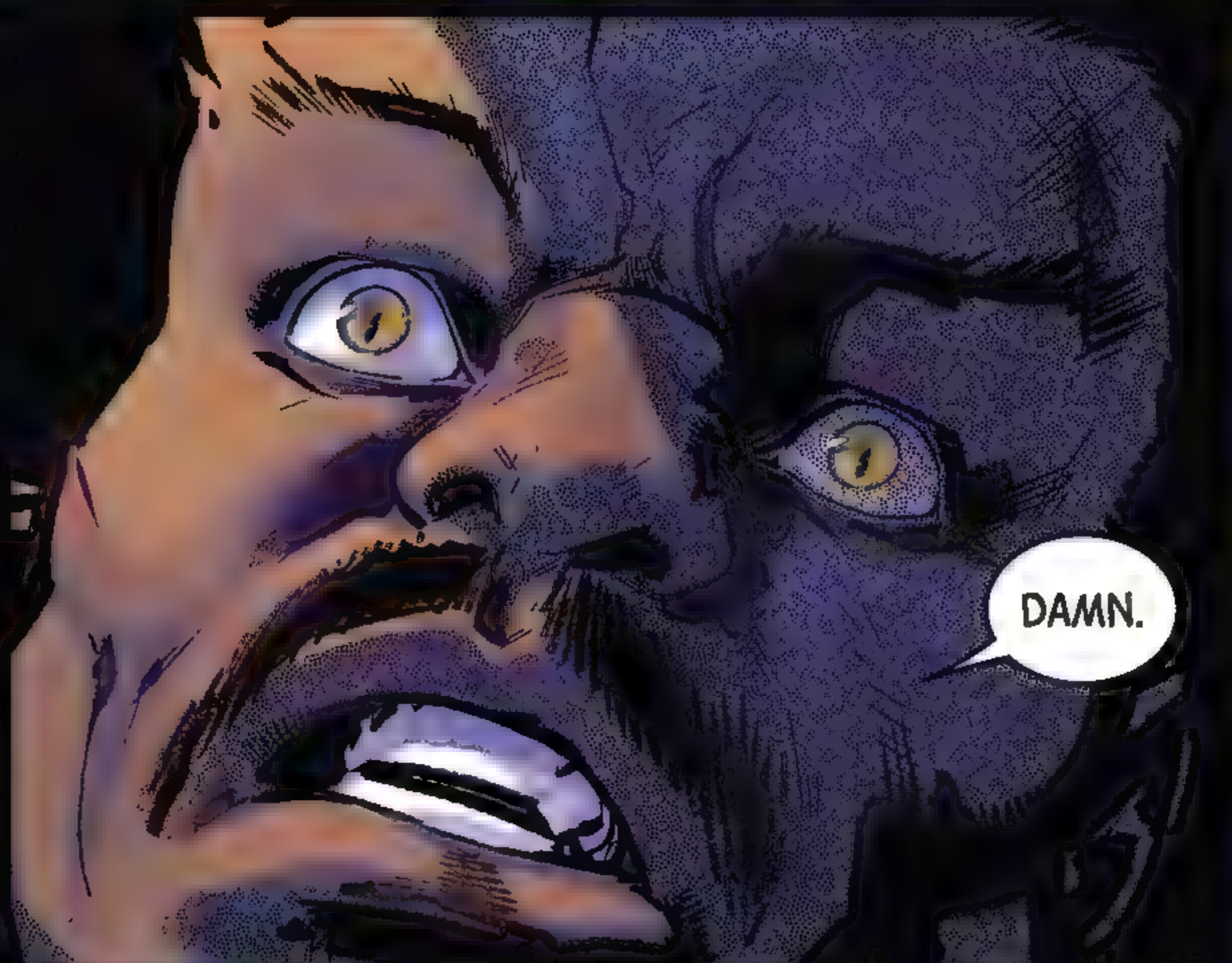
THIS IS GOING  
TO MAKE OUR REPS  
LIKE YOU WOULDN'T--



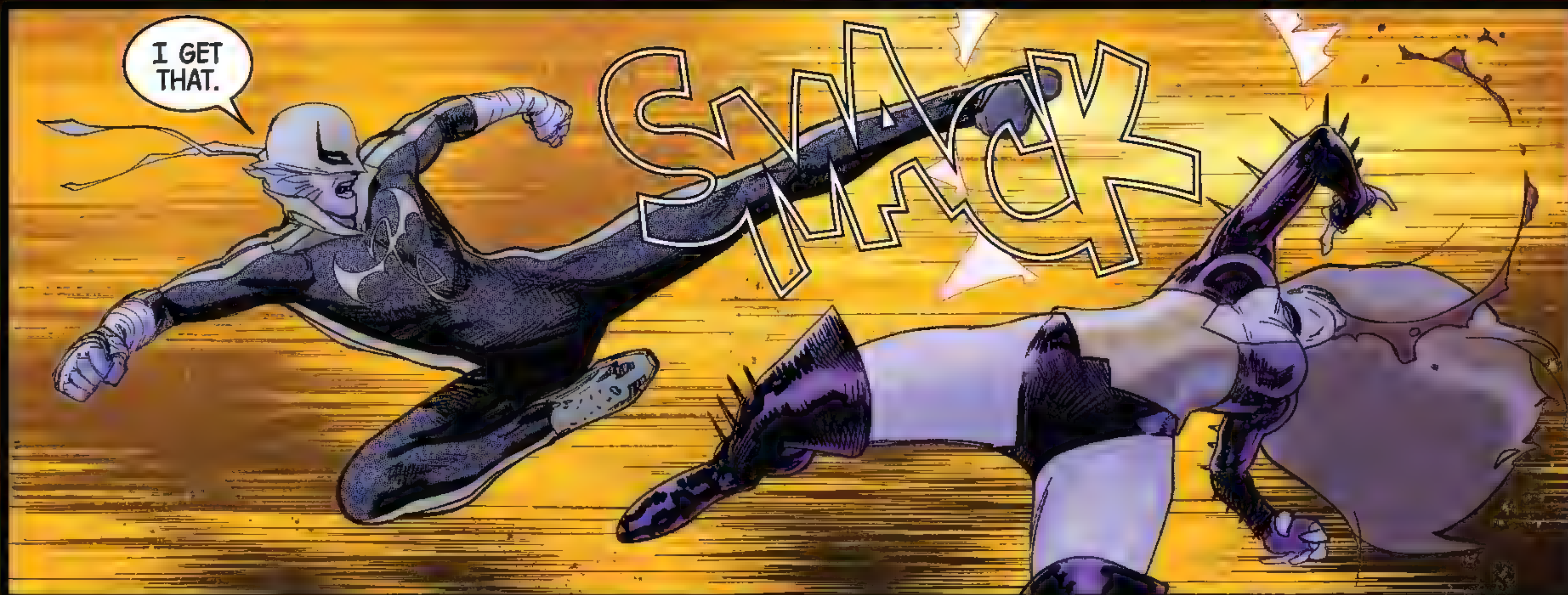
SMART-ASS!







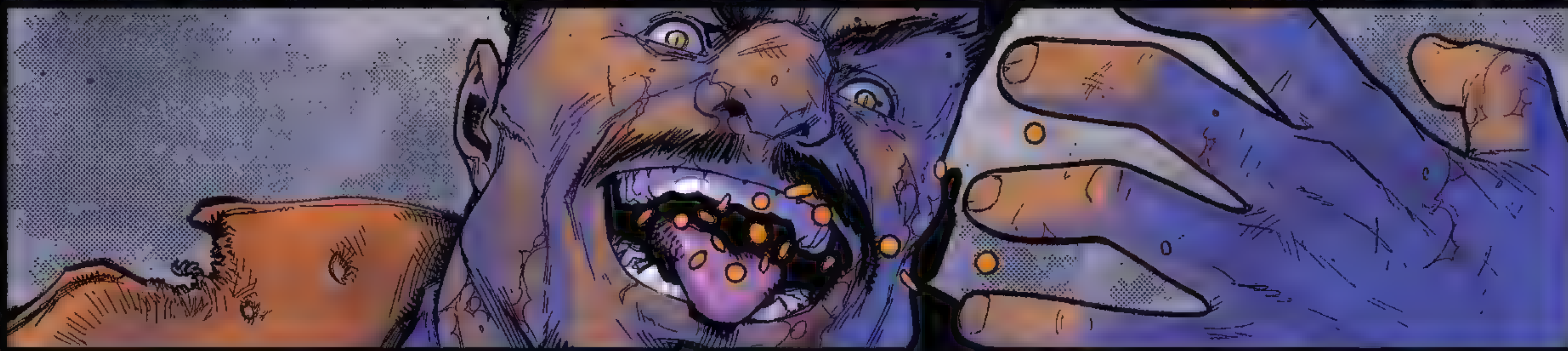














**BUPDABUPDAA**

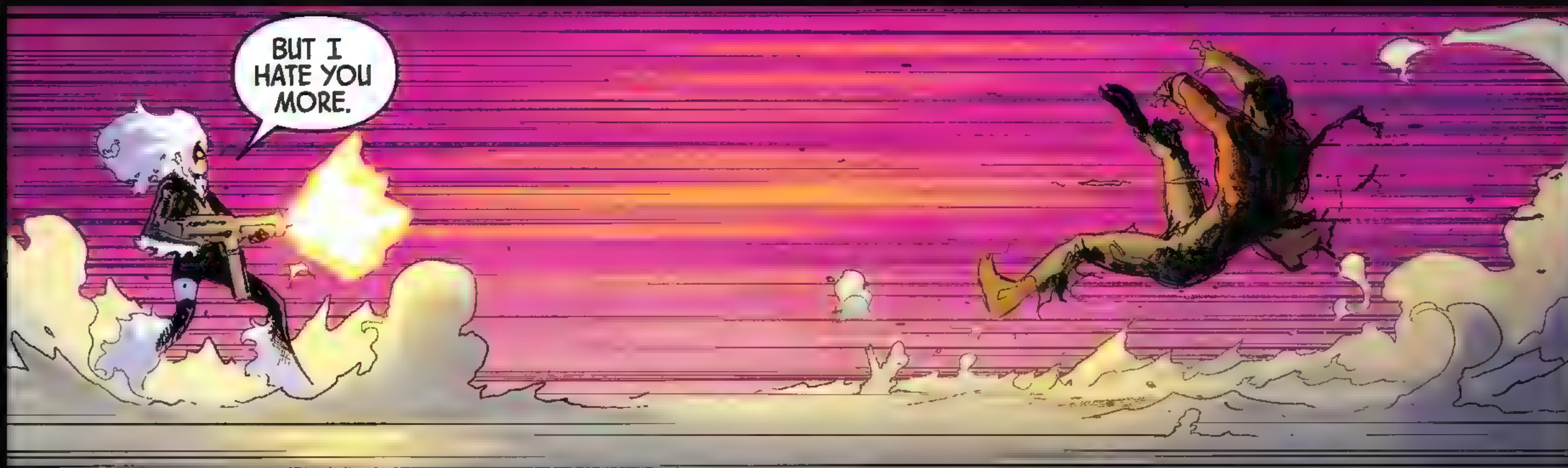
YEAH,  
NORMALLY  
I *HATE*  
GUNS...



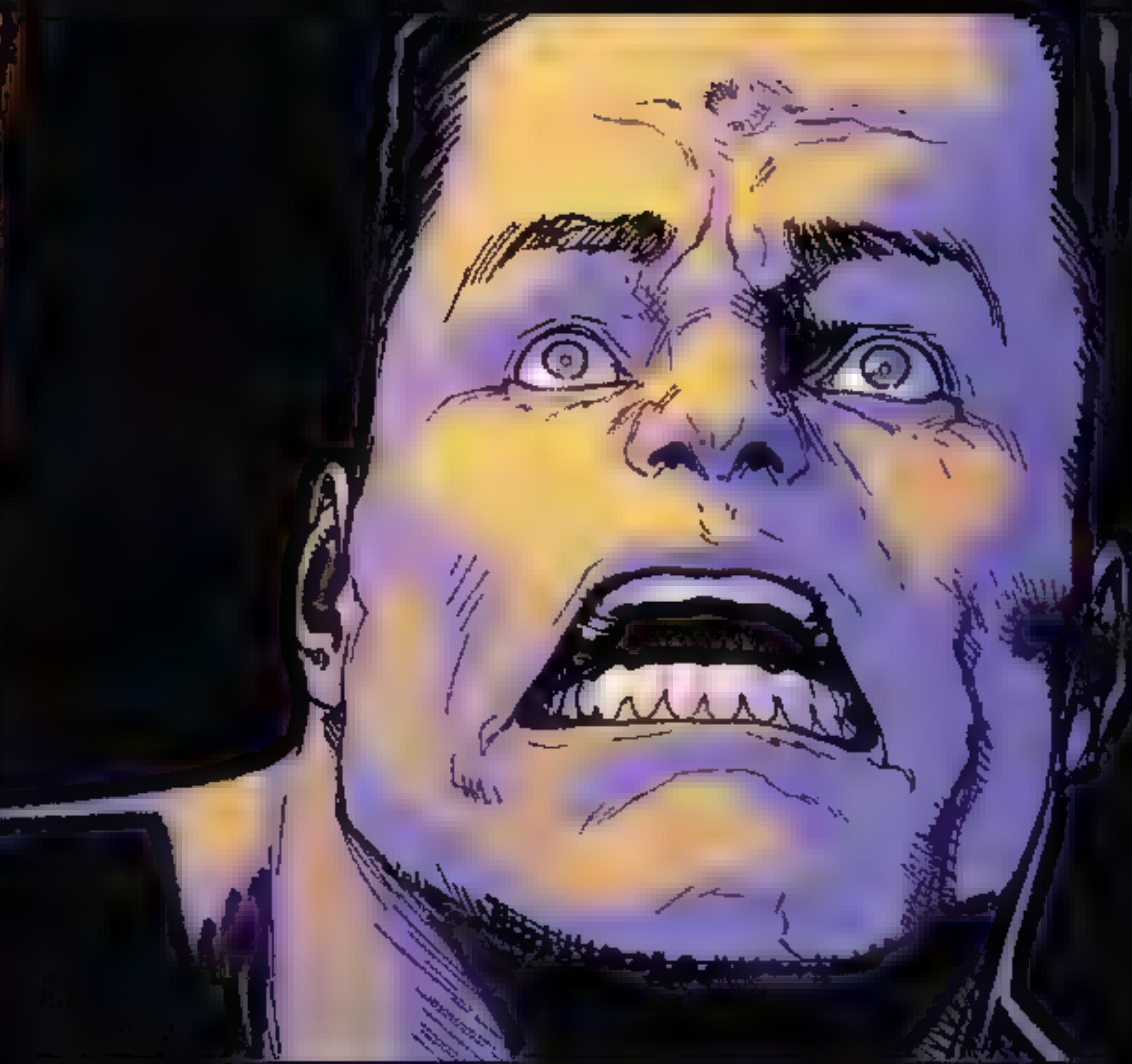
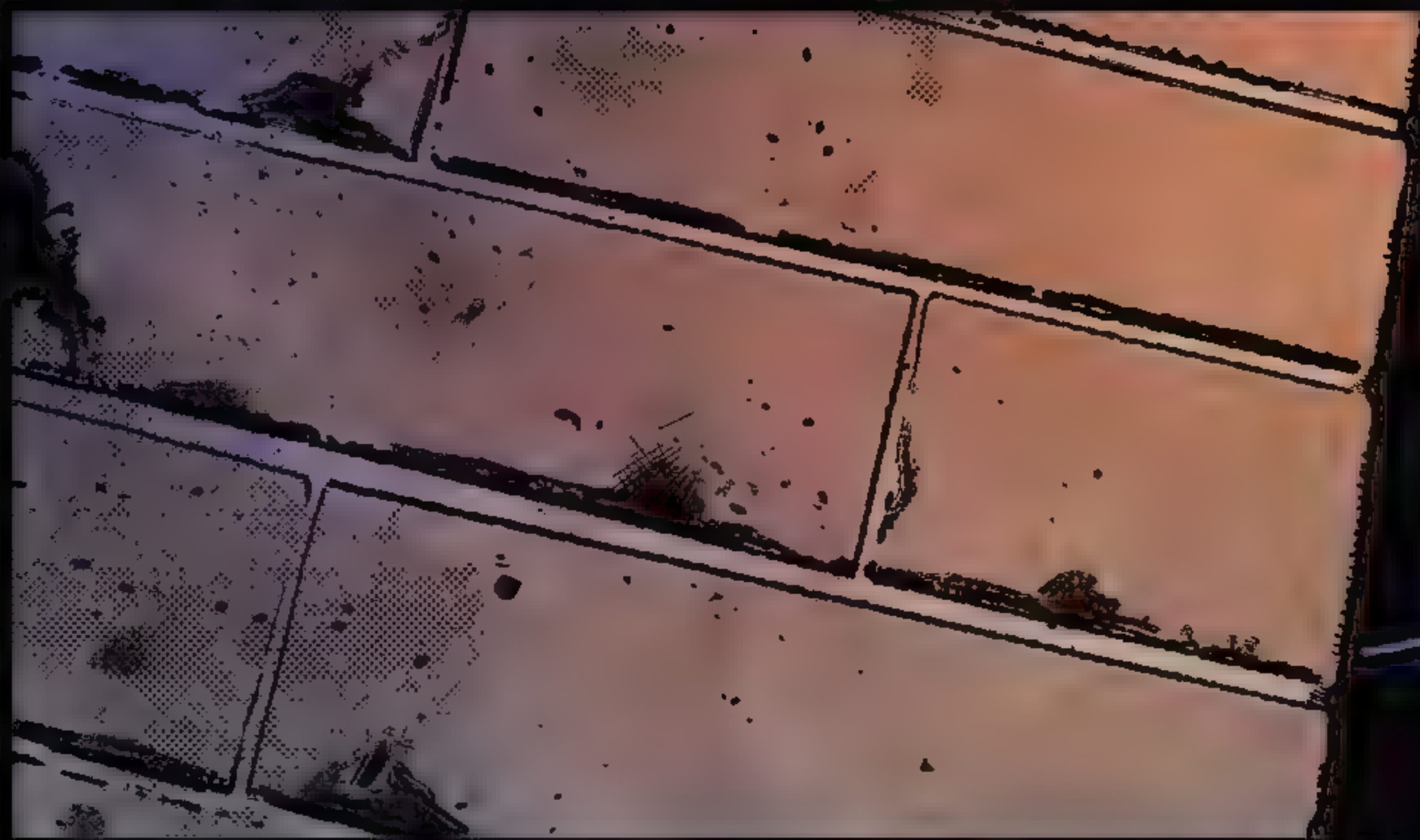




I HATE THEM SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

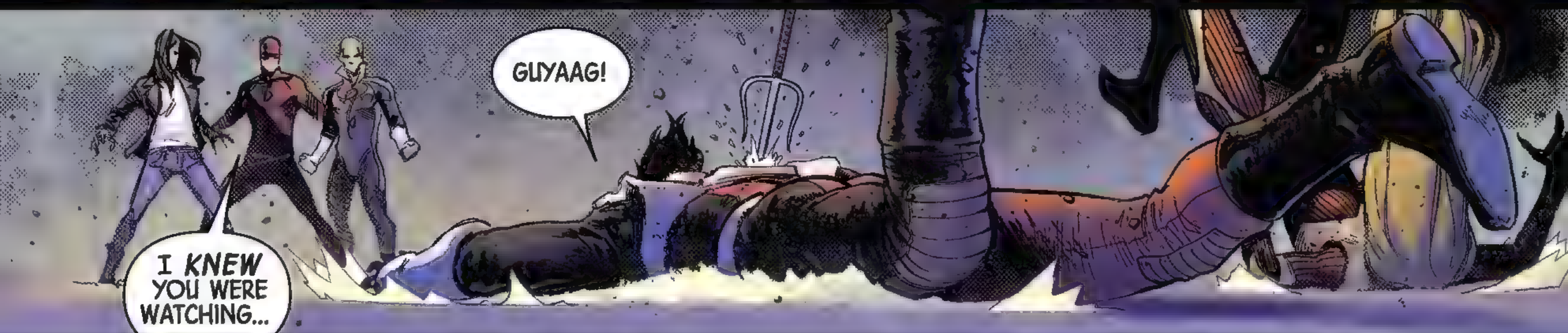
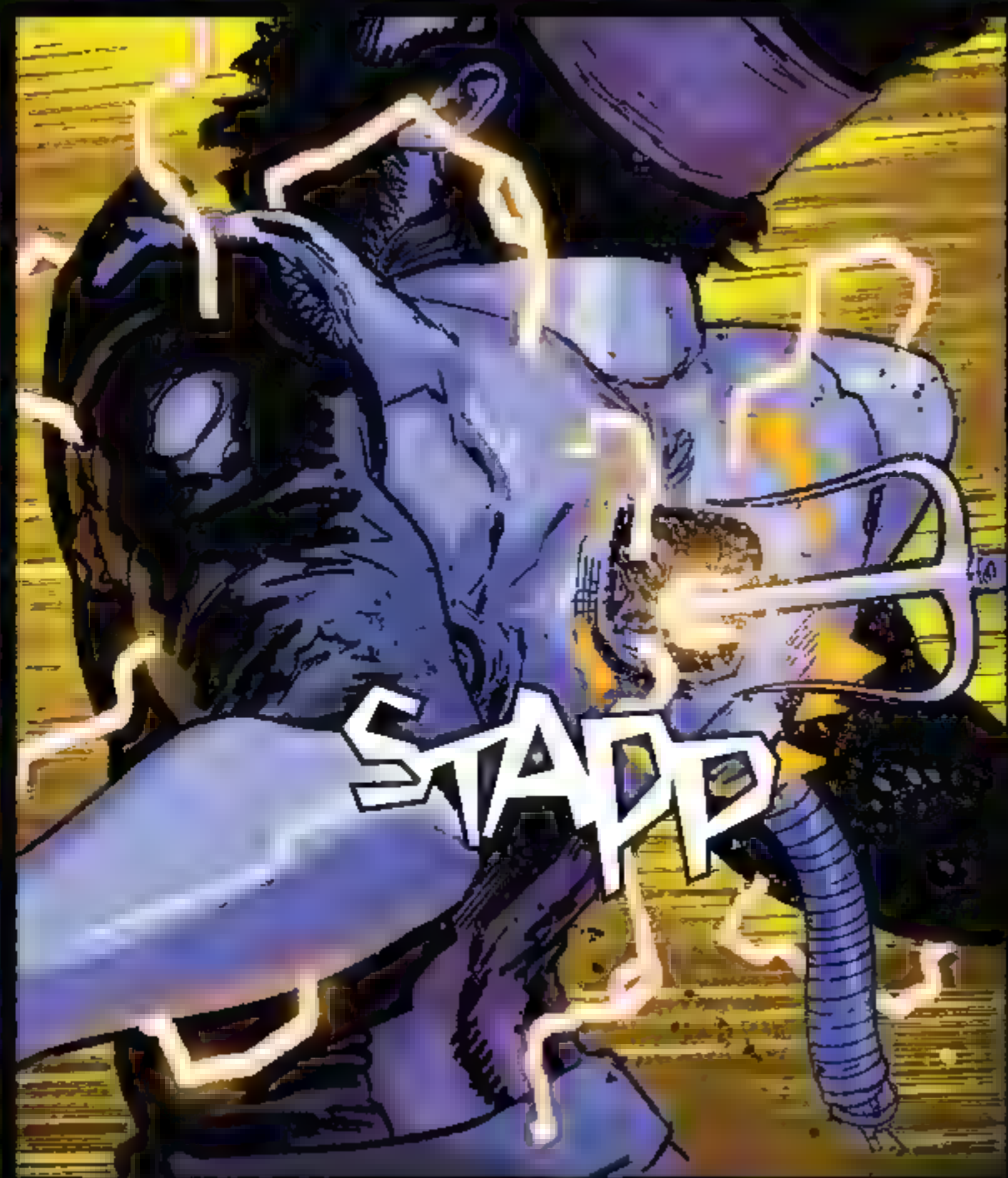
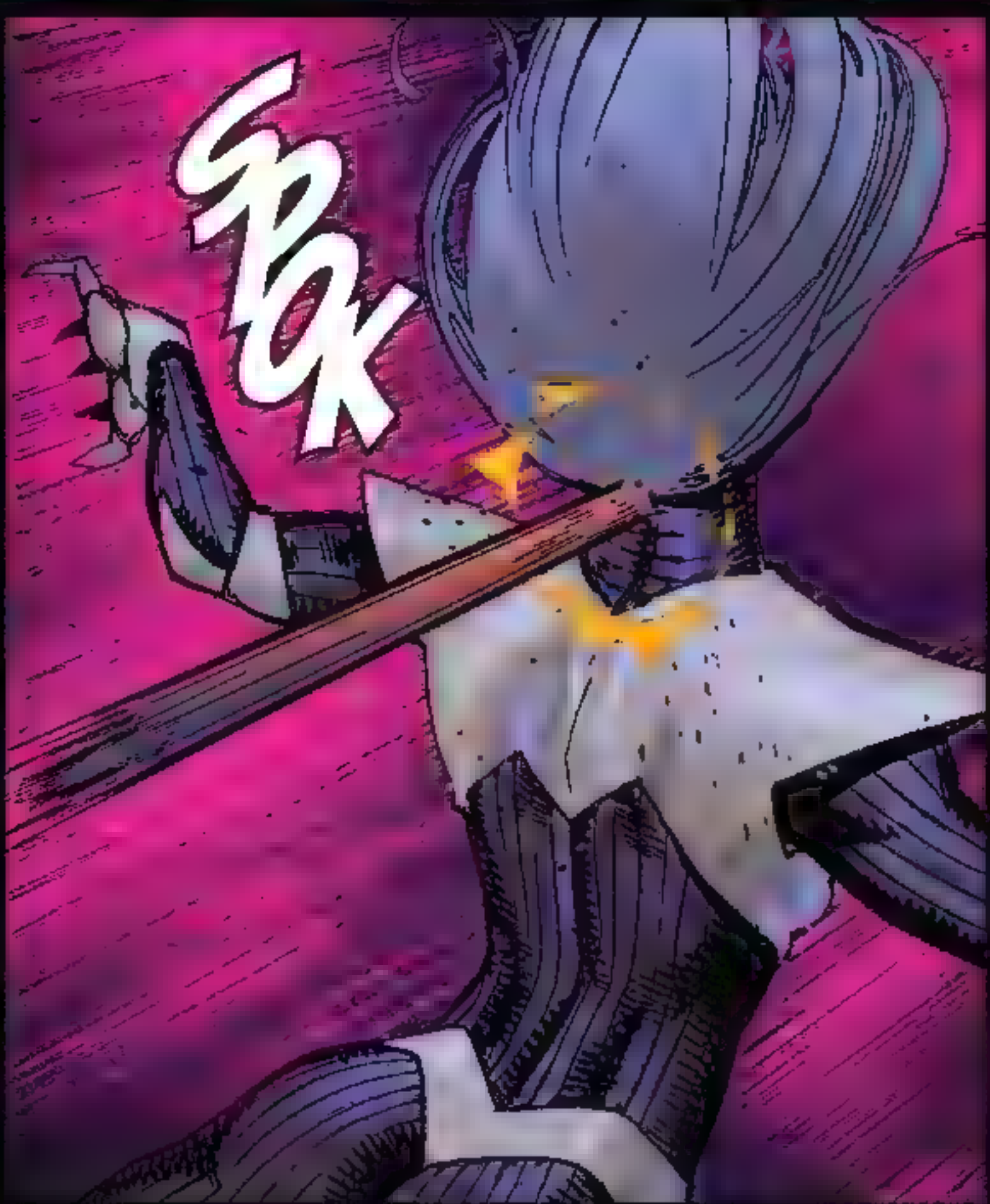
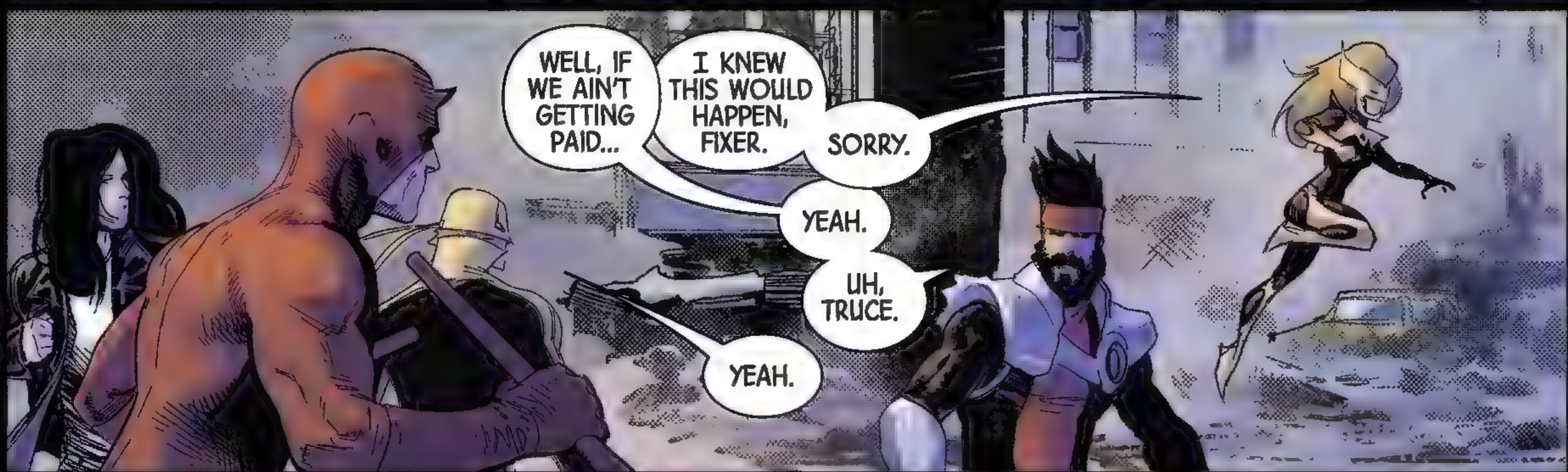
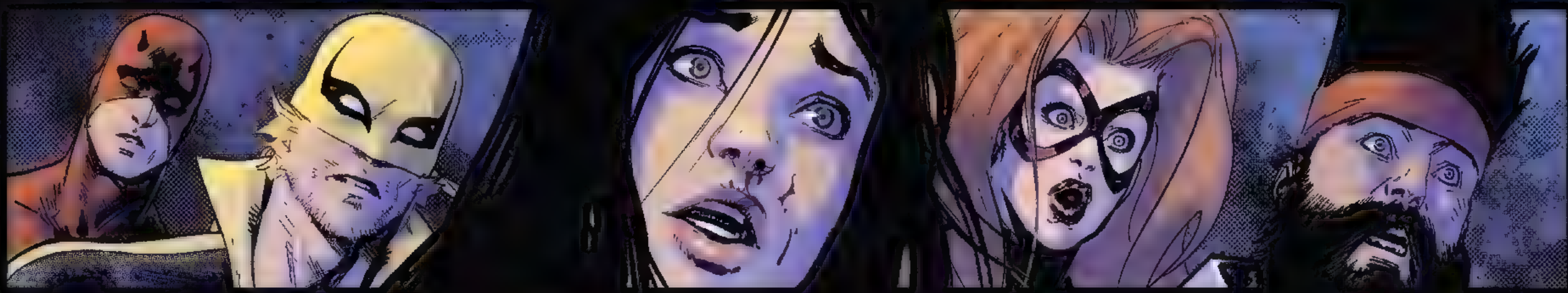


BUT I HATE YOU MORE.



BLACK CAT...









...ELEKTRA.

SURE  
YOU DID.

WHAT THE  
HELL IS THIS  
NOW?



FELICIA  
HARDY.

HEY,  
CAGE.

HERE.

ON THE  
HOUSE.

DON'T  
NEED IT.

NO.

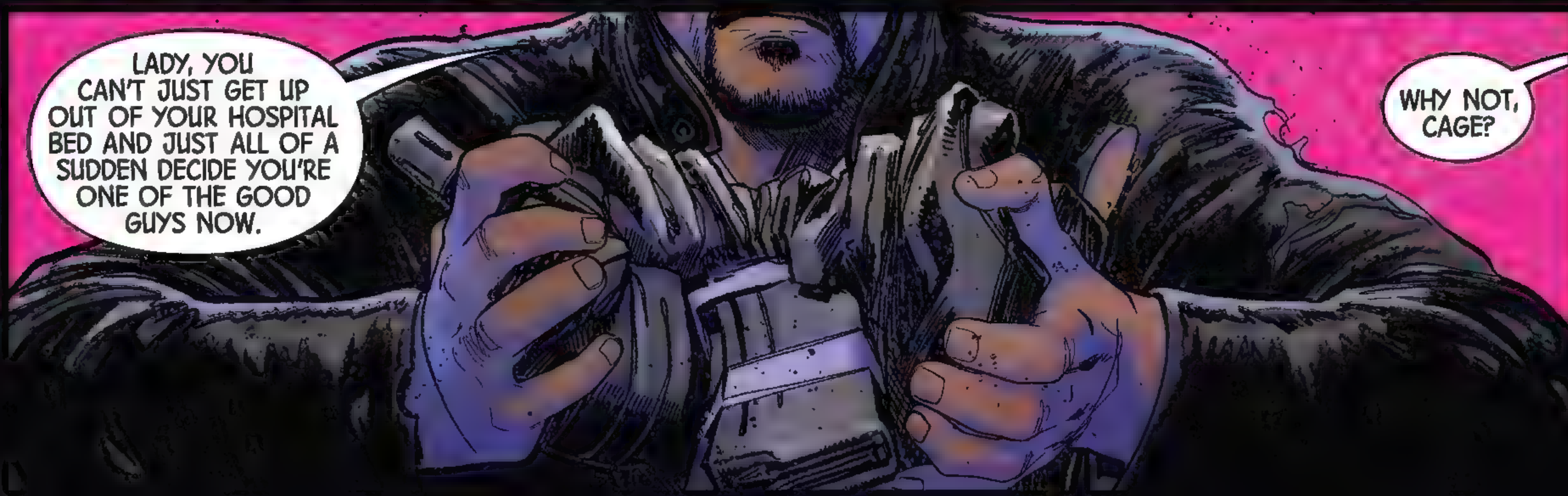
I DON'T  
NEED IT.



IF ALL **THIS**  
WEREN'T ENOUGH  
OF A BIG WAKE-UP  
CALL...

...MY  
CRIMINAL  
DAYS ARE  
OVER.

WHATEVER YOU  
GUYS ARE CALLING  
YOURSELVES, WHATEVER  
THE GAME PLAN IS,  
I AM ALL IN.



LADY, YOU  
CAN'T JUST GET UP  
OUT OF YOUR HOSPITAL  
BED AND JUST ALL OF A  
SUDDEN DECIDE YOU'RE  
ONE OF THE GOOD  
GUYS NOW.

WHY NOT,  
CAGE?











# THE DEFENDERS



WE'RE *THE* DEFENDERS.

AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU...WE WILL BE THERE TO DEFEND YOU.

WE JUST TOOK DOWN ONE KINGPIN AND WE'RE GETTING READY TO TAKE OUT THE NEXT.

HE CALLS HIMSELF *THE HOOD*.

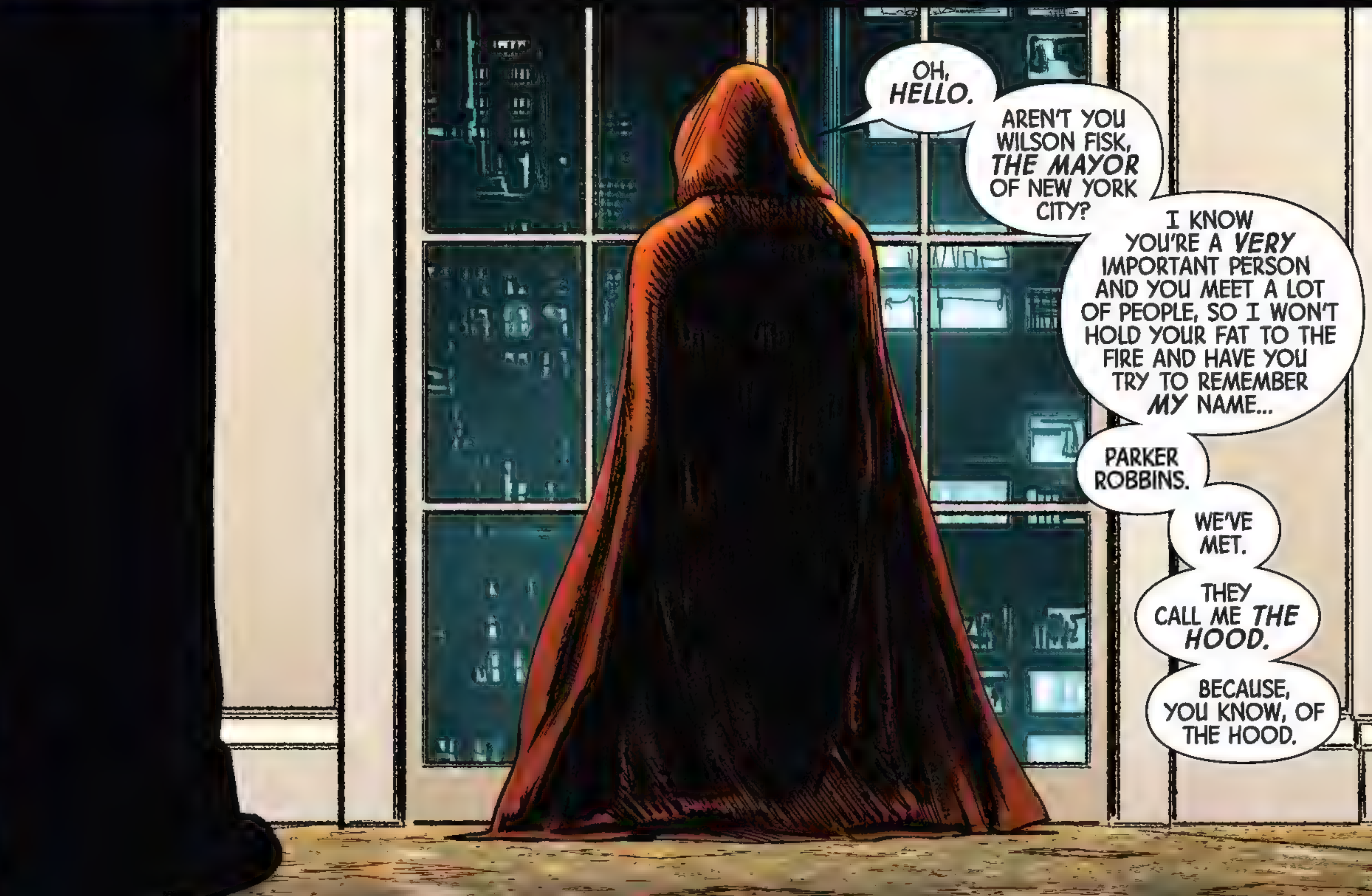
REAL NAME--PARKER ROBBINS.

KIND OF A DEMONICALLY POSSESSED GANGSTER.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.





OH,  
HELLO.

AREN'T YOU  
WILSON FISK,  
THE MAYOR  
OF NEW YORK  
CITY?

I KNOW  
YOU'RE A **VERY**  
IMPORTANT PERSON  
AND YOU MEET A LOT  
OF PEOPLE, SO I WON'T  
HOLD YOUR FAT TO THE  
FIRE AND HAVE YOU  
TRY TO REMEMBER  
MY NAME...

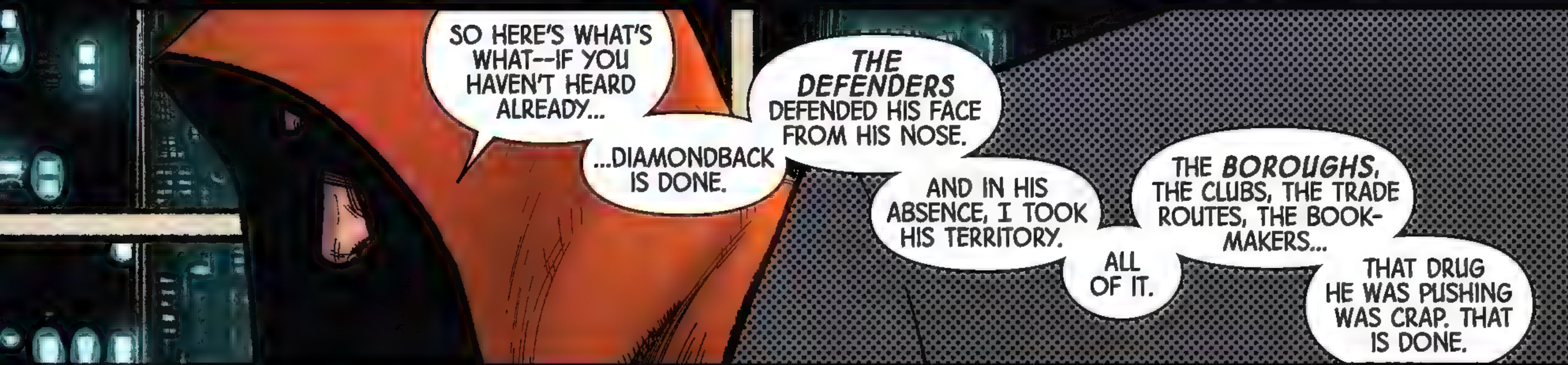
PARKER  
ROBBINS.

WE'VE  
MET.

THEY  
CALL ME **THE**  
**HOOD.**

BECAUSE,  
YOU KNOW, OF  
THE HOOD.





SO HERE'S WHAT'S  
WHAT--IF YOU  
HAVEN'T HEARD  
ALREADY...

...DIAMONDBACK  
IS DONE.

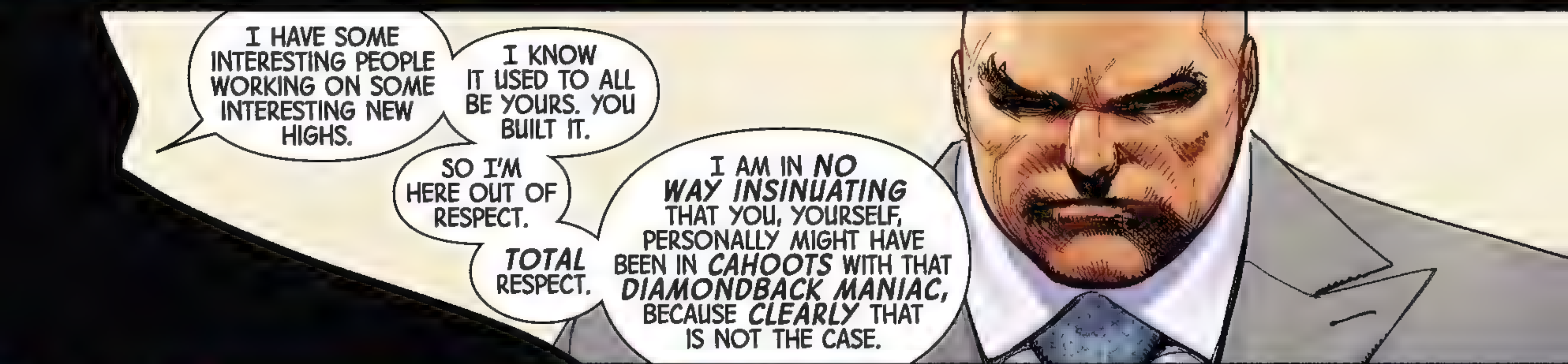
**THE  
DEFENDERS**  
DEFENDED HIS FACE  
FROM HIS NOSE.

AND IN HIS  
ABSENCE, I TOOK  
HIS TERRITORY.

**THE *BOROUGH*S,**  
THE CLUBS, THE TRADE  
ROUTES, THE BOOK-  
MAKERS...

ALL  
OF IT.

THAT DRUG  
HE WAS PUSHING  
WAS CRAP. THAT  
IS DONE.



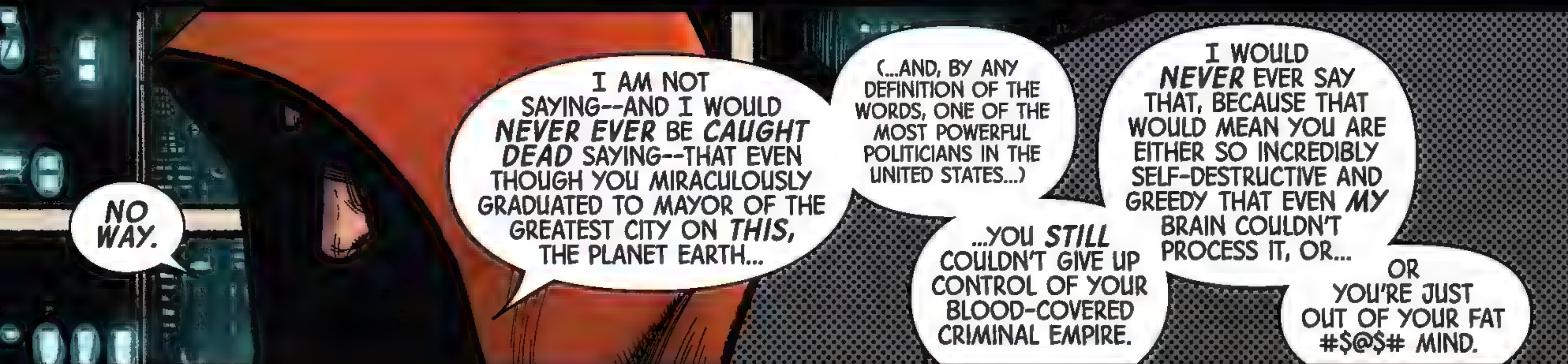
I HAVE SOME  
INTERESTING PEOPLE  
WORKING ON SOME  
INTERESTING NEW  
HIGHS.

I KNOW  
IT USED TO ALL  
BE YOURS. YOU  
BUILT IT.

SO I'M  
HERE OUT OF  
RESPECT.

**TOTAL  
RESPECT.**

I AM IN **NO  
WAY INSINUATING**  
THAT YOU, YOURSELF,  
PERSONALLY MIGHT HAVE  
BEEN IN **CAHOOTS** WITH THAT  
**DIAMONDBACK MANIAC,**  
BECAUSE **CLEARLY** THAT  
IS NOT THE CASE.



**NO  
WAY.**

I AM NOT  
SAYING--AND I WOULD  
**NEVER EVER BE CAUGHT  
DEAD** SAYING--THAT EVEN  
THOUGH YOU MIRACULOUSLY  
GRADUATED TO MAYOR OF THE  
GREATEST CITY ON **THIS,**  
THE PLANET EARTH...

(...AND, BY ANY  
DEFINITION OF THE  
WORDS, ONE OF THE  
MOST POWERFUL  
POLITICIANS IN THE  
UNITED STATES...)

I WOULD  
**NEVER EVER SAY**  
THAT, BECAUSE THAT  
WOULD MEAN YOU ARE  
EITHER SO INCREDIBLY  
SELF-DESTRUCTIVE AND  
GREEDY THAT EVEN **MY**  
BRAIN COULDN'T  
PROCESS IT, OR...

...YOU **STILL**  
COULDN'T GIVE UP  
CONTROL OF YOUR  
BLOOD-COVERED  
CRIMINAL EMPIRE.

OR  
YOU'RE JUST  
OUT OF YOUR FAT  
#@\$# MIND.



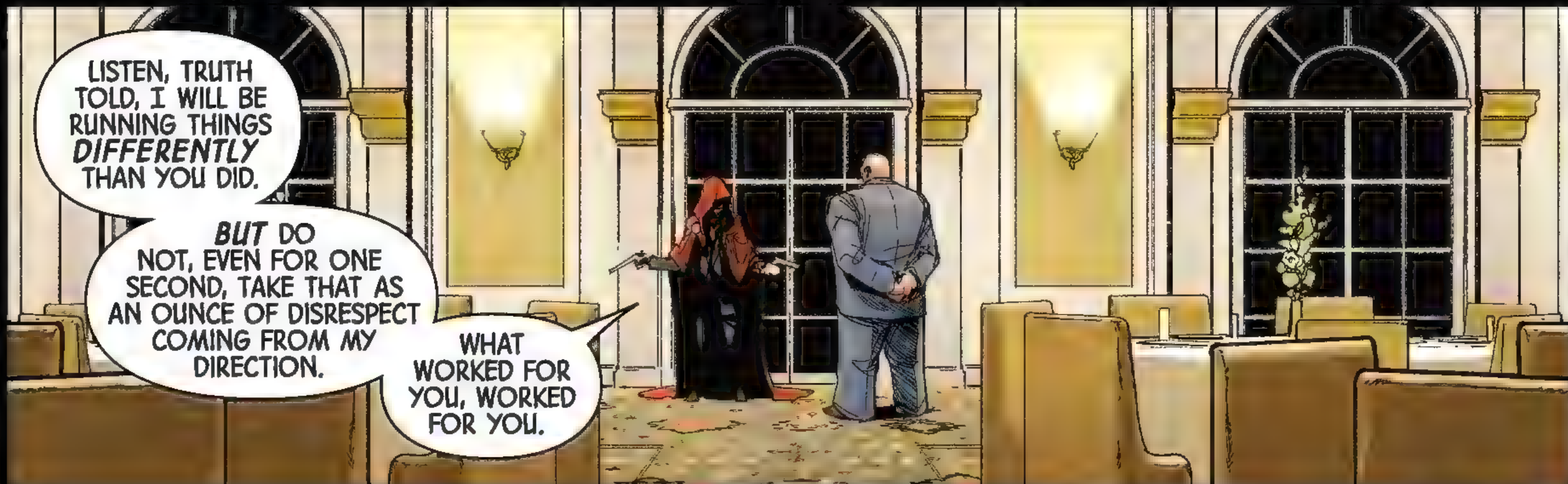
NOPE.

**THIS IS**  
NOTHING BUT  
A COURTESY CALL  
TO TELL YOU THAT  
I AM THE NEW  
KINGPIN.

SO! ANY  
ADVICE FOR  
ME, KINGPIN TO  
KINGPIN?







LISTEN, TRUTH  
TOLD, I WILL BE  
RUNNING THINGS  
*DIFFERENTLY*  
THAN YOU DID.

*BUT DO*  
NOT, EVEN FOR ONE  
SECOND, TAKE THAT AS  
AN OUNCE OF DISRESPECT  
COMING FROM MY  
DIRECTION.

WHAT  
WORKED FOR  
YOU, WORKED  
FOR YOU.

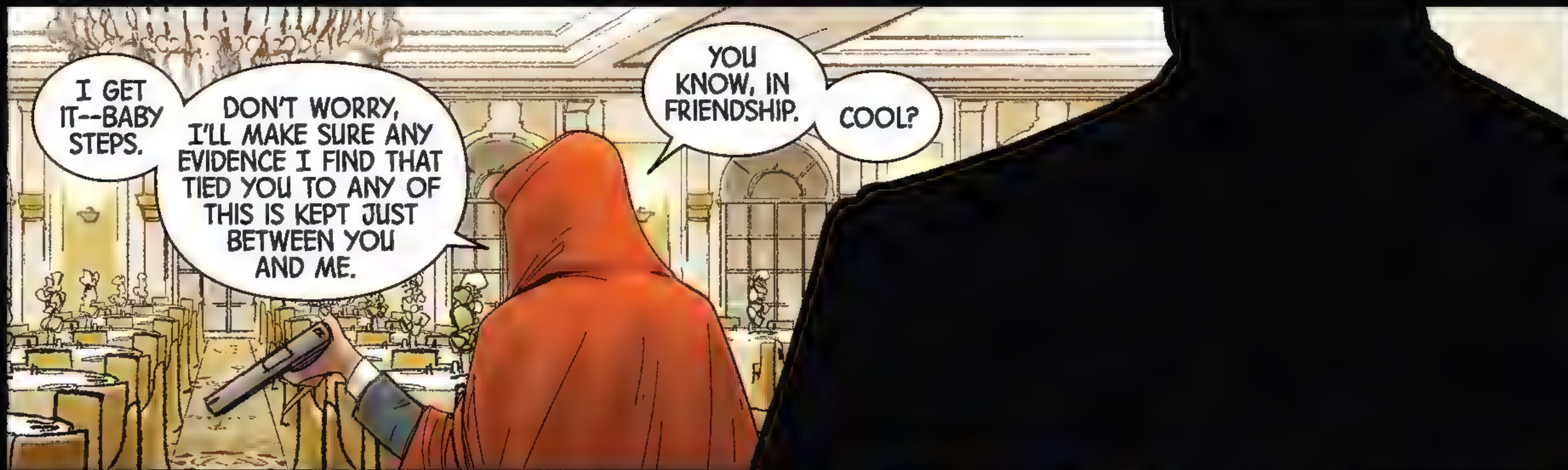


BUT IT'S TIME TO  
SHAKE THINGS UP,  
AND I HAVE SOME  
NEW IDEAS I'M  
GOING TO  
TRY OUT.

I JUST  
WANTED YOU  
TO KNOW IT IS  
NOT OUT OF  
DISRESPECT.

NEW  
KINGPIN,  
NEW MAYOR.  
NEW RULES.

AND I HOPE  
WE--YOU AND I--  
CAN START TO THINK  
OF WAYS TO *HELP*  
EACH OTHER.



I GET  
IT--BABY  
STEPS.

DON'T WORRY,  
I'LL MAKE SURE ANY  
EVIDENCE I FIND THAT  
TIED YOU TO ANY OF  
THIS IS KEPT JUST  
BETWEEN YOU  
AND ME.

YOU  
KNOW, IN  
FRIENDSHIP.

COOL?



"HERE'S THE  
THING..."

"IT'S NOT  
THE STORIES  
WE'RE TOLD..."

"...IT'S THE  
STORIES THAT  
WE'RE *NOT*..."





THE NEWS YOU READ OR SEE, **SOMETIMES** THAT'S THE STORY YOU GET **JUST** BECAUSE WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE OF MAKING THE NEWS--THEY JUST **HAPPEN** TO HAVE SOME FOOTAGE.

SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

SO BASED ON THAT AND **ONLY** THAT...IT BECOMES **NEWS**.



BUT STUFF HAPPENS EVERY DAY, ALL OVER THE WORLD.

BIG STUFF. IMPORTANT STUFF. STUFF THAT **NEVER** GETS REPORTED.

BUT NO ART, NO STORY.

ALSO, I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S, I THINK, ONLY SO MANY STORIES A PERSON CAN **HEAR** IN A DAY.

THAT IS TRUE.



I **THINK** IT'S ALL PERSPECTIVE.

I THINK YOU HEAR THE STORIES YOU NEED TO HEAR.



NO. NO. NO.

PEOPLE GO LOOKING FOR THE STORIES THEY **WANT**.

THE STORIES THAT CONFIRM THEIR WORST FEARS.

**TRUST** ME ON THIS.



I THINK PEOPLE LOOK FOR STORIES THAT GIVE YOU HOPE WHEN YOU CAN'T FIND ANY IN FRONT OF YOU.

AW, THAT'S TRUE.

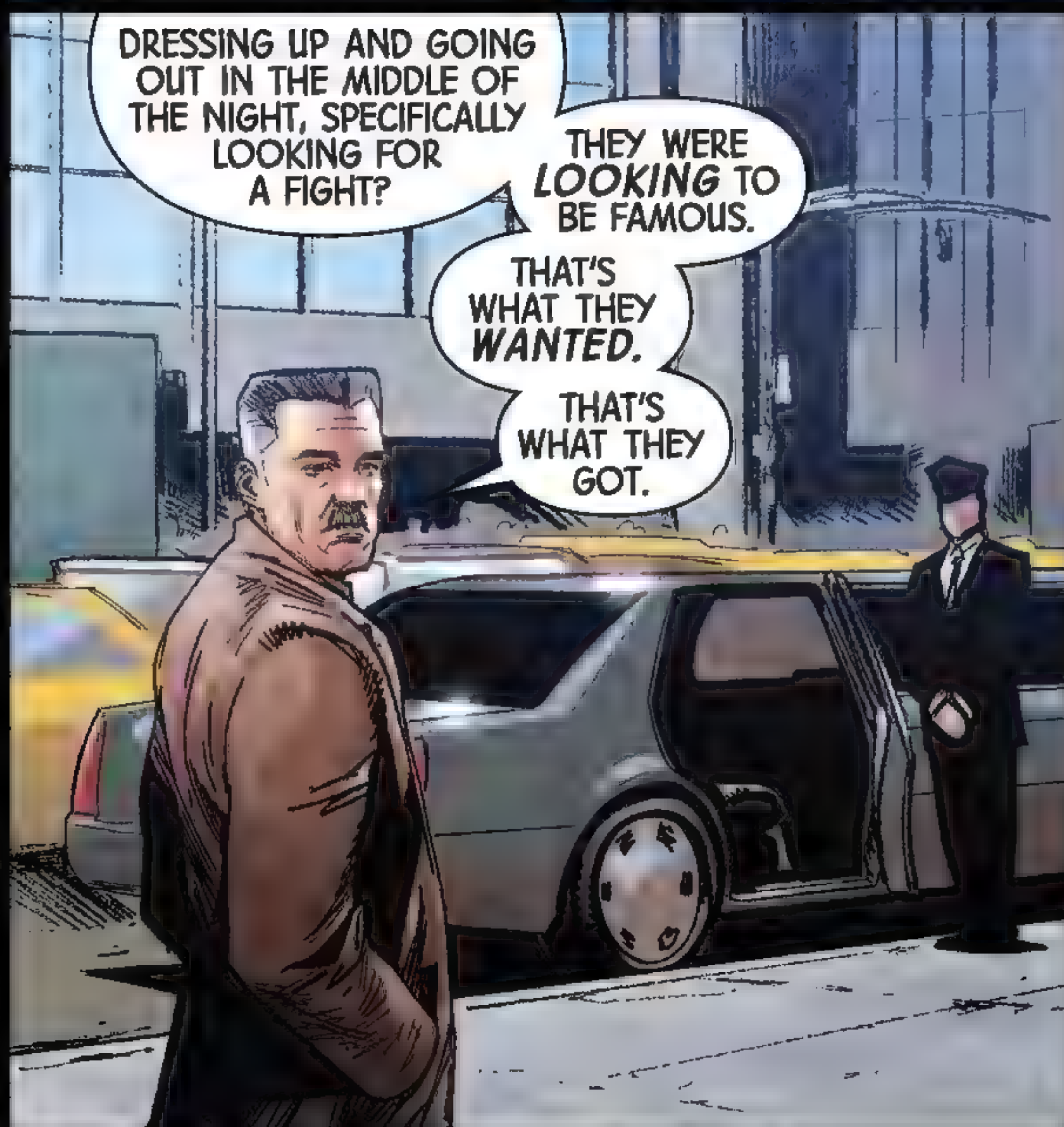


YOU KNOW, THERE ARE STORIES THAT HAVE ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO **ME** THAT I HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN...

BUT THAT DOES **NOT** ANSWER THE QUESTION--WHAT HAPPENED TO **THE DEFENDERS**?

...BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I REMEMBER EVERY DETAIL OF REED RICHARDS AND SUE STORM'S WEDDING.





DRESSING UP AND GOING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR A FIGHT?

THEY WERE **LOOKING** TO BE FAMOUS.

THAT'S WHAT THEY **WANTED**.

THAT'S WHAT THEY GOT.



LISTEN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NOT **WELL-KNOWN**.

WE'RE **WELL-KNOWN**.

(I WAS AN AVENGER.)

I WAS ONE OF **ROLLING STONE'S HOTTEST AVENGERS**.



(HE WAS #77.)

THING IS, YEAH, WE'RE USED TO **STICKING OUT**.

I USED TO WEAR A BIG **METAL TIARA**.

**WHY?** BECAUSE, LOOK AT ME, I **COULD**.

AND, IF NOT ME, WHO?



WHEN I SAW THE NEWS, I WAS LIKE--I USED TO **DREAM** OF THAT KIND OF PRESS.

**BUT** IF IT WERE ME THE HEADLINE WOULD HAVE SAID, "**CREEPY SPIDER-BOY RUINS LIMO**."



**BUT** WHAT HAPPENED TO US AFTER **DIAMONDBACK**...

THAT WAS **WEIRD**.

THAT...WAS **UNEXPECTED**.



NO, IT WASN'T.

PEOPLE ARE **SO SICK** OF BEING PICKED ON AND PREYED ON...

MY HUSBAND WALKED UP TO ONE OF THOSE ASSHATS WHO WAS PICKING AND PREYING ON PEOPLE AND HE PUNCHED HIM RIGHT IN HIS FACE.

AND HE DID IT ON **CAMERA**.

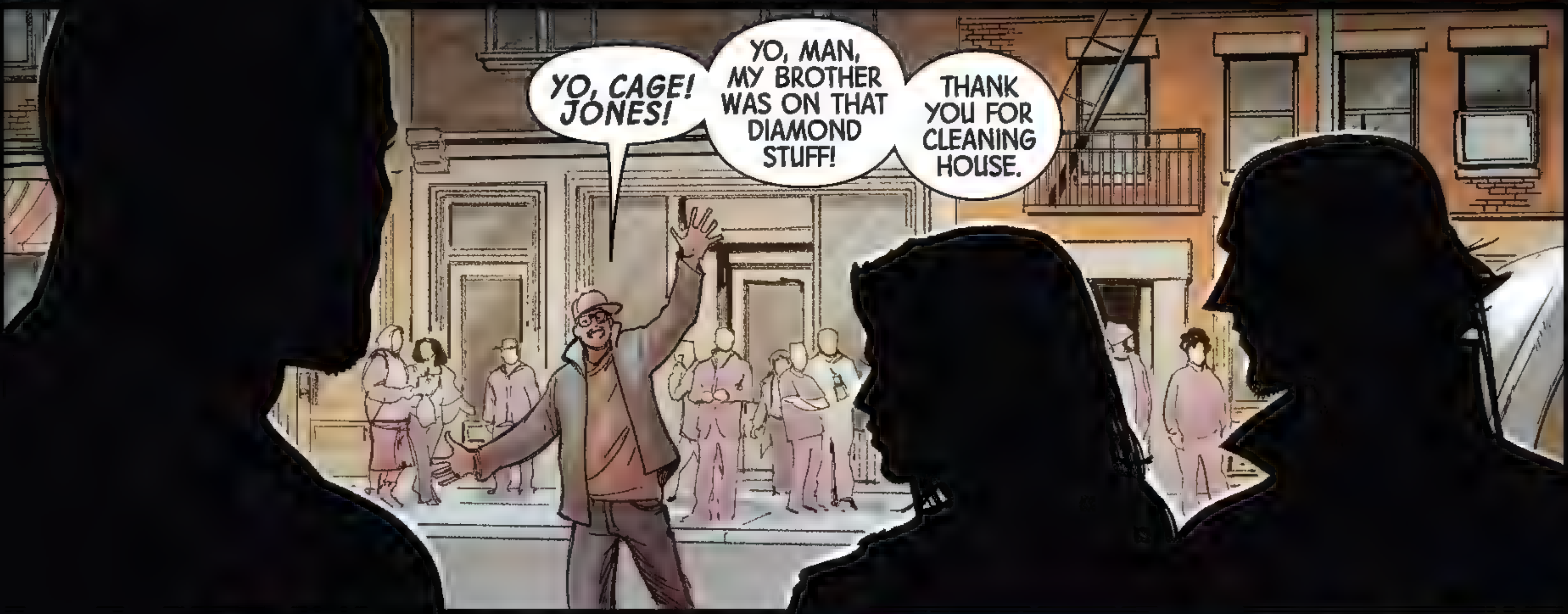
SO, YEAH, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

SURE.









YO, CAGE!  
JONES!

YO, MAN,  
MY BROTHER  
WAS ON THAT  
DIAMOND  
STUFF!

THANK  
YOU FOR  
CLEANING  
HOUSE.



SERIOUSLY!

DOES ANYONE  
EVER JUST **THANK**  
YOU GUYS?

NO?

WELL,  
THANK  
YOU!

**CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP**

THANK  
YOU!

**IRON  
FIST!!!**

YOU  
SAVED MY  
BABY!

CAAAAAAGGE!

**CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP**

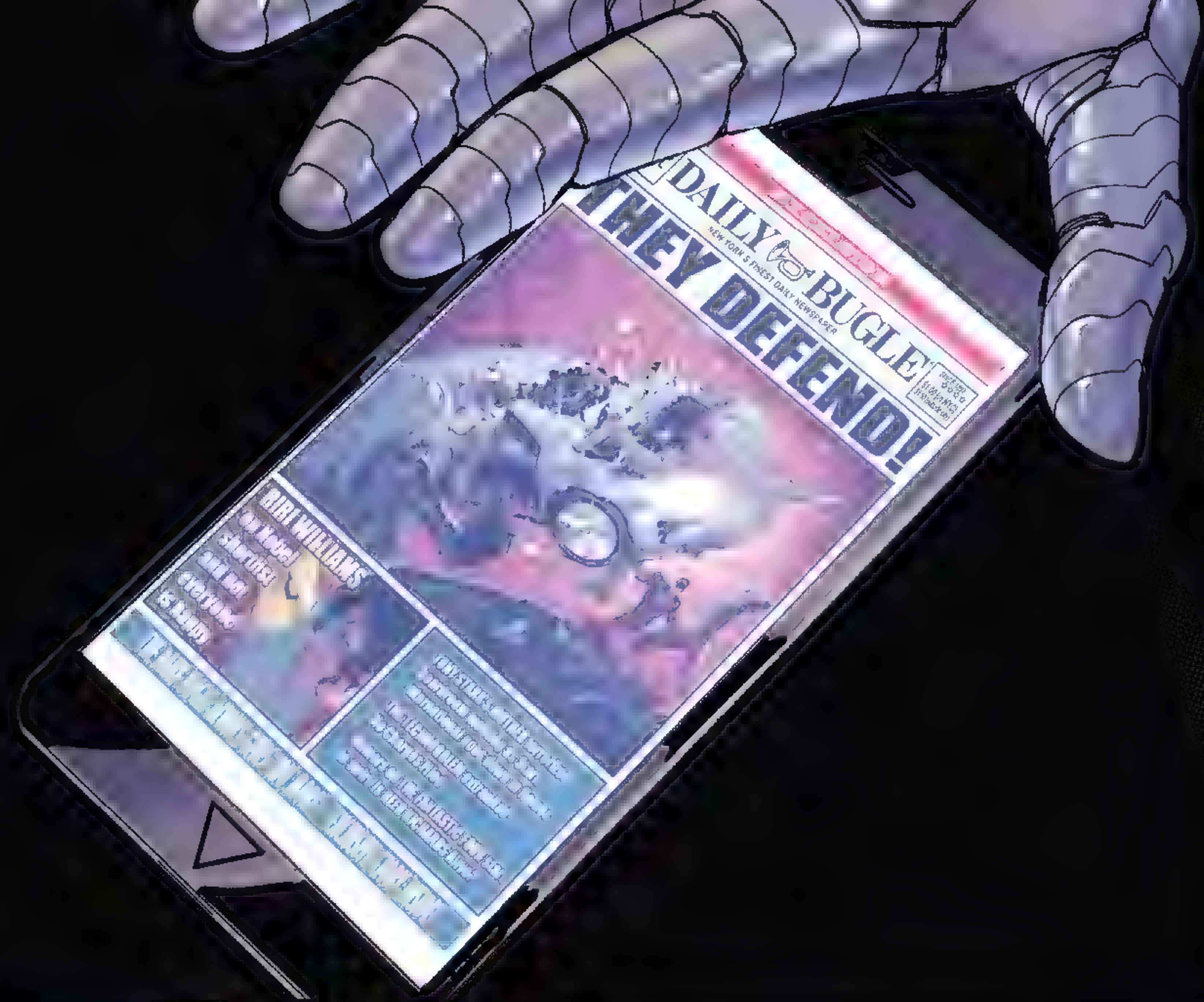


(WHAT  
THE ACTUAL  
@#&#?)

"OUR BOYS  
ARE THE NEW  
HOTNESS."

**CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAP**





NICE.  
NICE.  
THEY HAD IT COMING.



NO MENTION OF YOU THOUGH, BLACK CAT.

I'M OKAY.

DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?

THE FAMOUS BLACK CAT? QUEENPIN OF HELL'S KITCHEN?



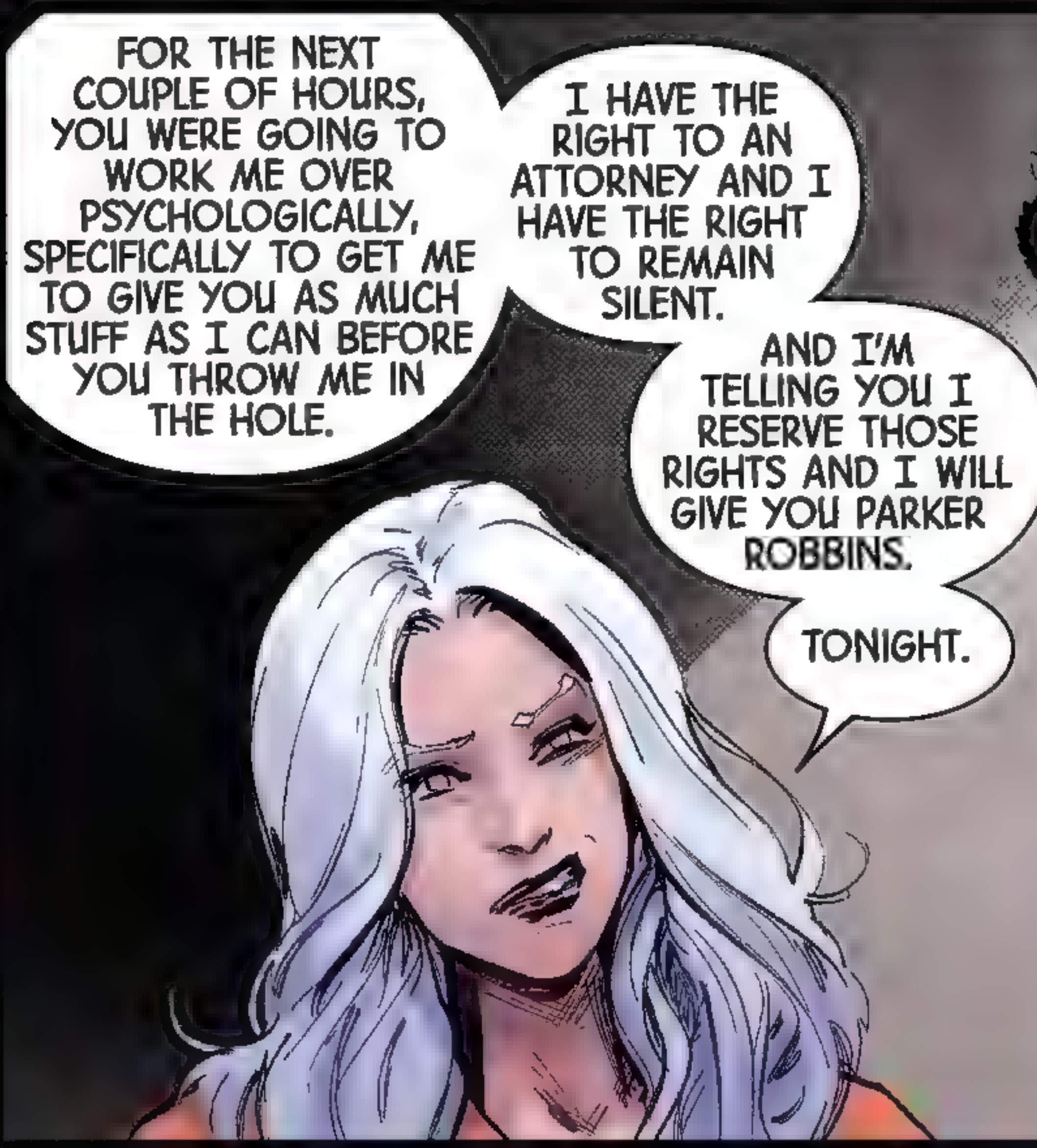
KNIGHT, I CAN GIVE YOU THE HOOD.

WITH A @#\$@ BOW.

TONIGHT.



OH, WE'RE CUTTING TO THE CHASE.



FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF HOURS, YOU WERE GOING TO WORK ME OVER PSYCHOLOGICALLY, SPECIFICALLY TO GET ME TO GIVE YOU AS MUCH STUFF AS I CAN BEFORE YOU THROW ME IN THE HOLE.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY AND I HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.

AND I'M TELLING YOU I RESERVE THOSE RIGHTS AND I WILL GIVE YOU PARKER ROBBINS.

TONIGHT.



IN EXCHANGE FOR...?

I WALK.

I CAN'T DO THAT.

SURE YOU CAN.

HA.

TOLDJA.

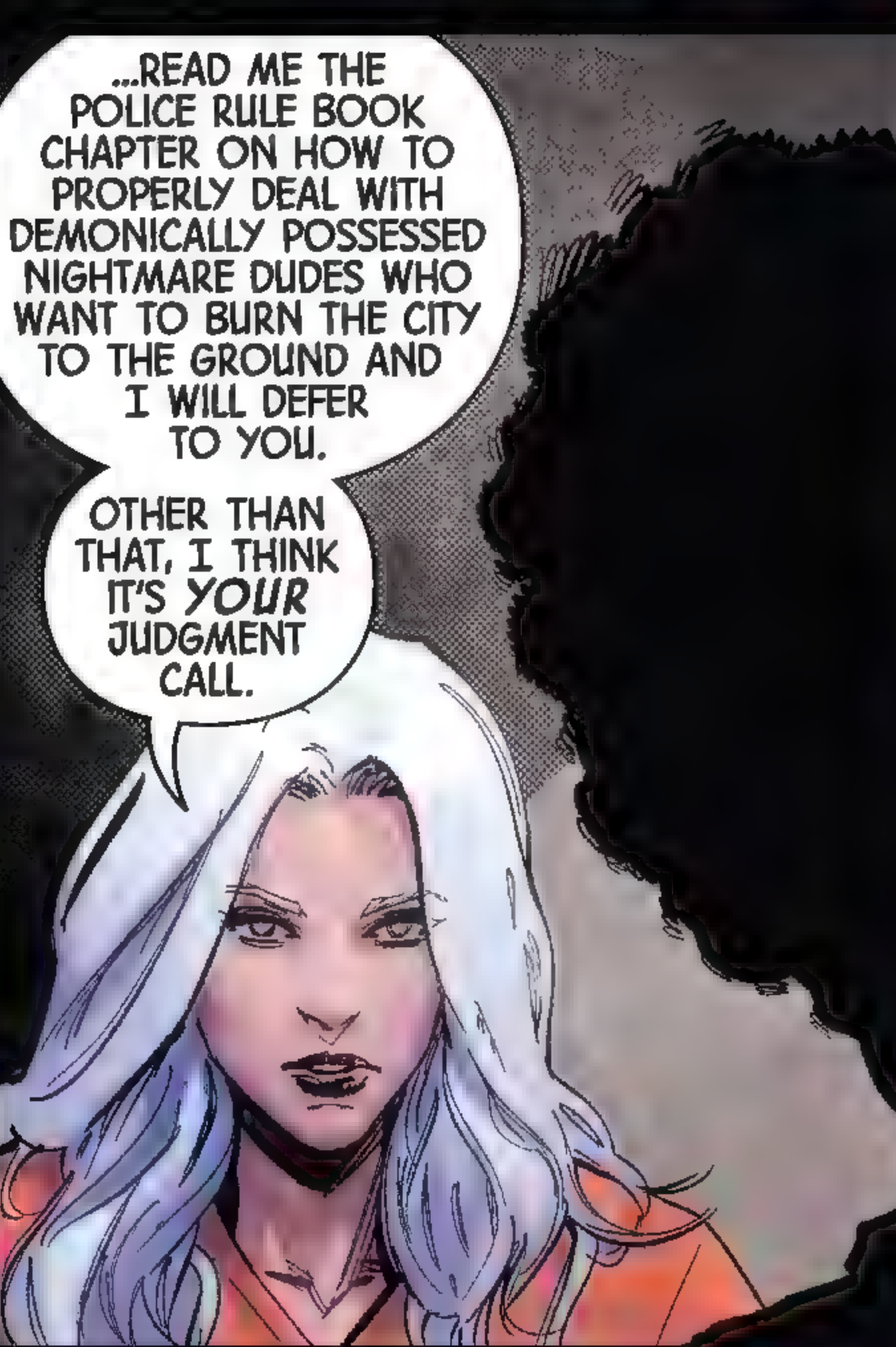


THAT IS NOT HOW POLICE PROCEDURE WORKS.

HAVE YOU OR THE FBI BUILT YOUR RACKETEERING CASE AGAINST ME?

ARE YOU READY TO SHOW IT TO A COURT?

AND WHILE YOU CONSIDER THAT QUESTION...



...READ ME THE POLICE RULE BOOK CHAPTER ON HOW TO PROPERLY DEAL WITH DEMONICALLY POSSESSED NIGHTMARE DUDES WHO WANT TO BURN THE CITY TO THE GROUND AND I WILL DEFER TO YOU.

OTHER THAN THAT, I THINK IT'S YOUR JUDGMENT CALL.

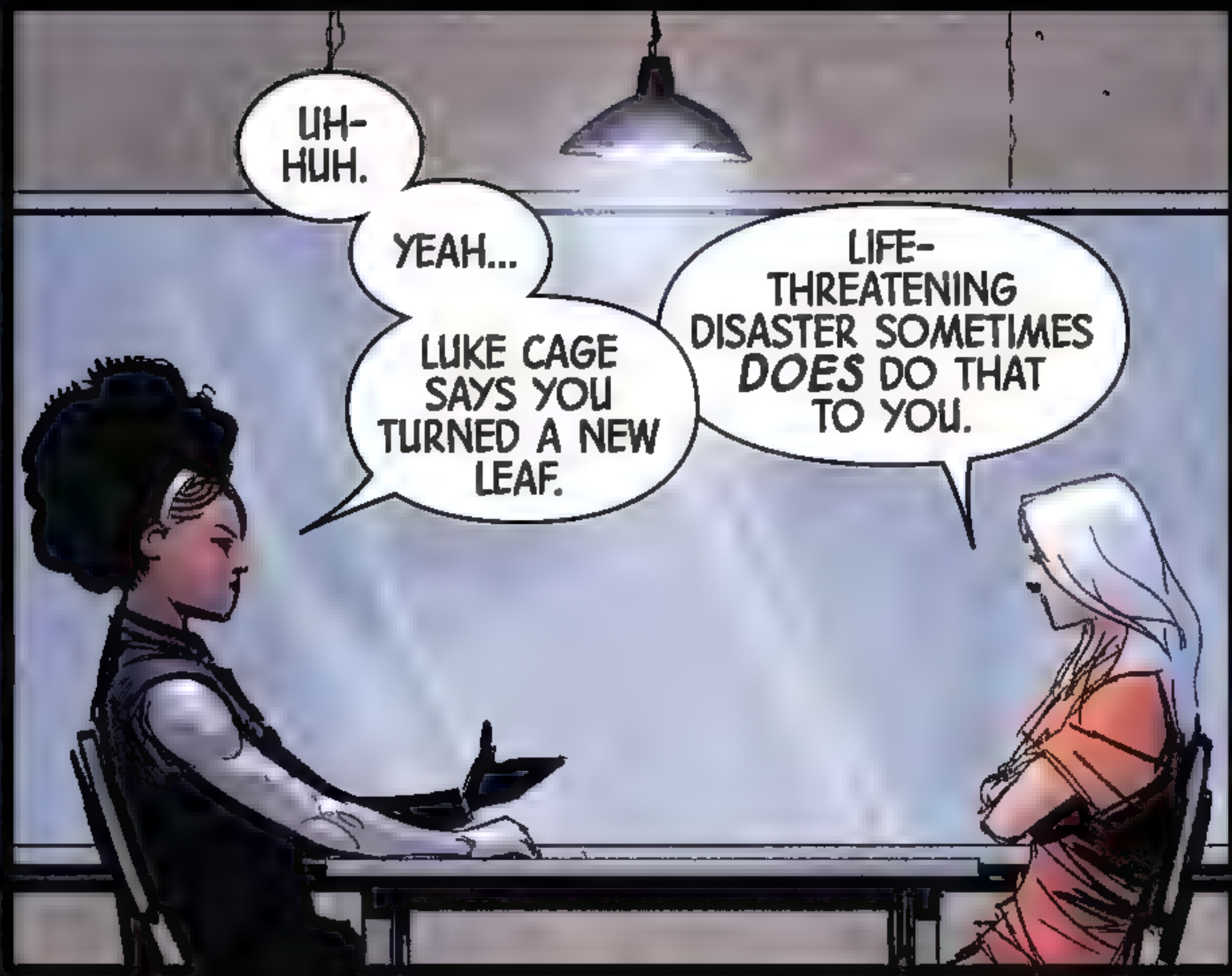


SO...

...WHO DO YOU WANT IN JAIL TONIGHT?

DEMONICALLY POSSESSED NIGHTMARE DUDE OR ME?





UH-HUH.

YEAH...

LUKE CAGE SAYS YOU TURNED A NEW LEAF.

LIFE-THREATENING DISASTER SOMETIMES DOES DO THAT TO YOU.



DEVIL?

SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.

WELL, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

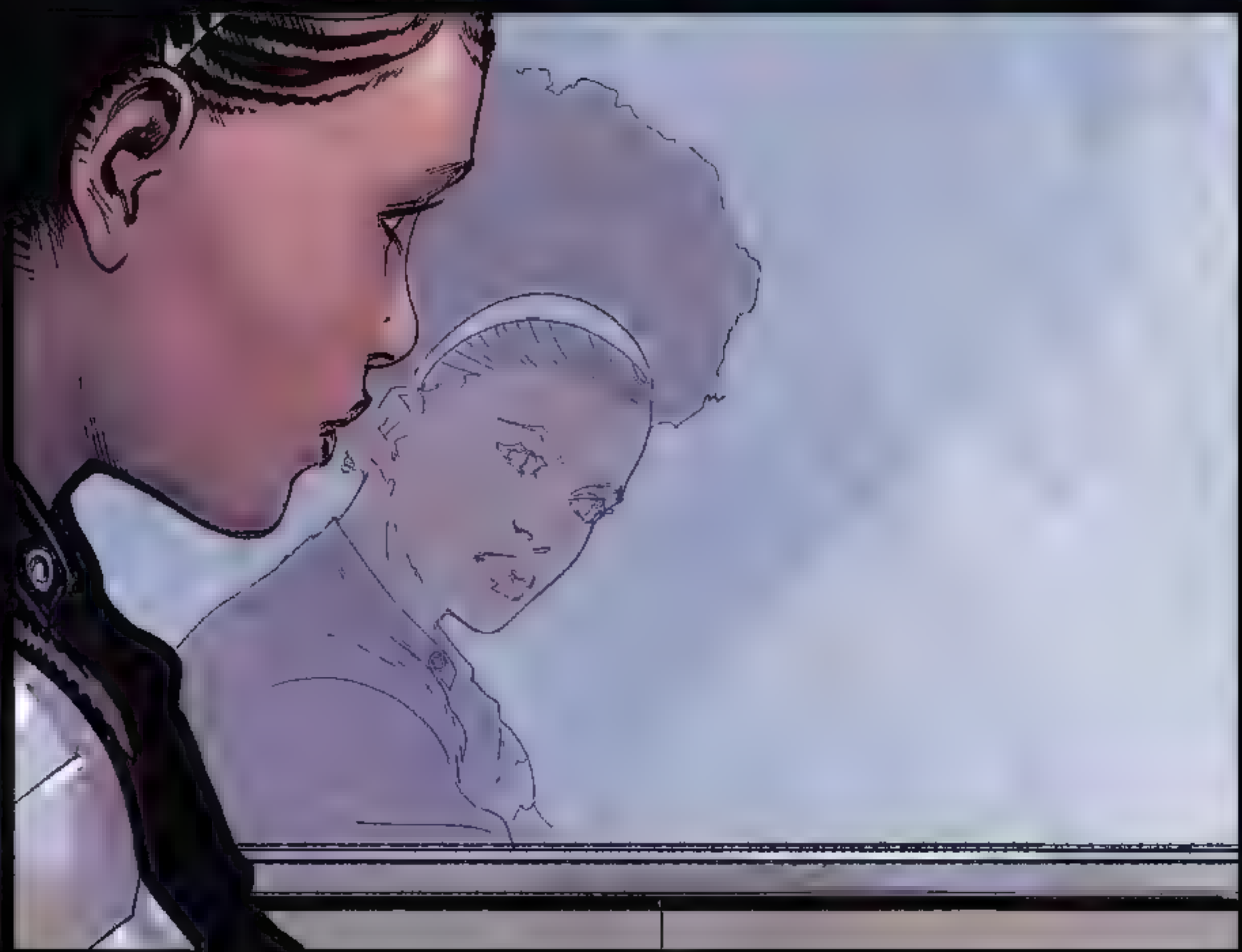


...I'M SORRY FOR ANY **STRESS** I MIGHT HAVE CAUSED OVER THE YEARS.



OH, SHE'S SORRY!!!

LET ME GET THE KEYS AND CALL YOU A CAR SERVICE.



WOULD THEY LIKE TO COME IN?

WE CAN ORDER CHINESE AND WATCH THE HOOD RUIN THE CITY.



PST!

I KIND OF LOVE HER.

OH, DANNY.





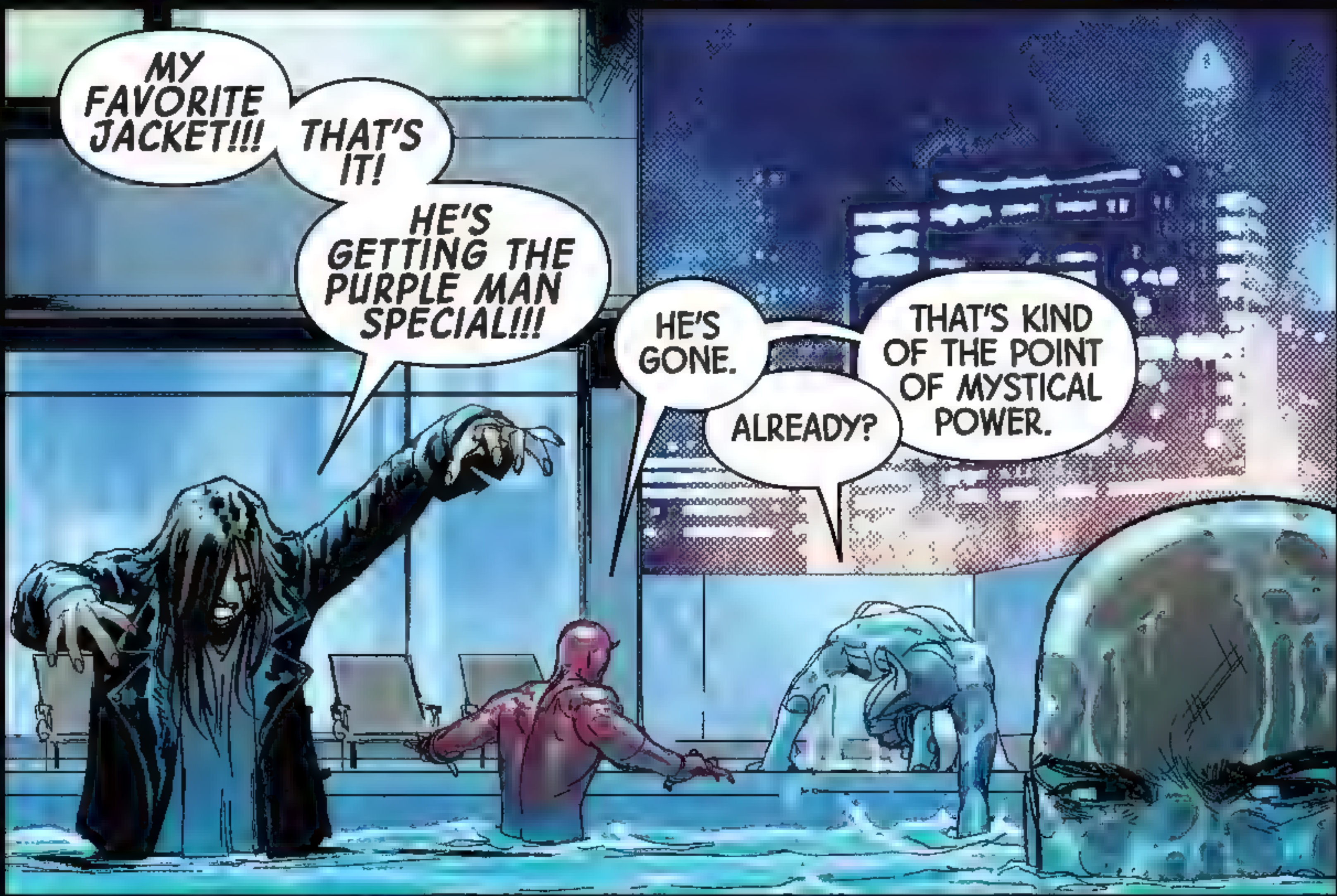




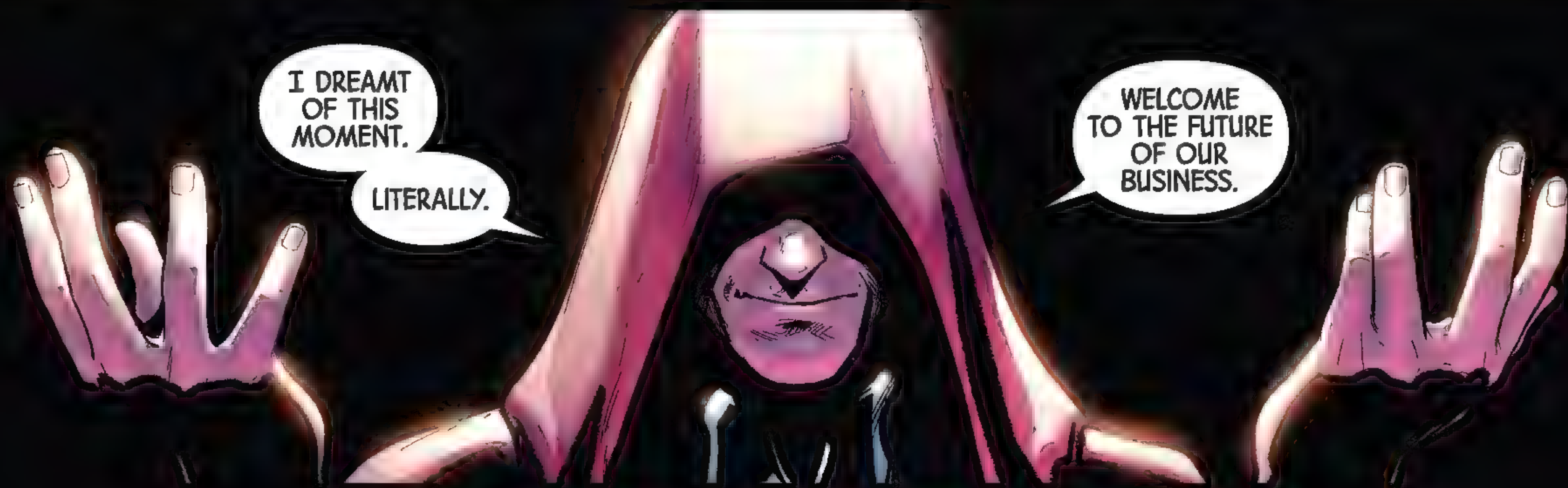
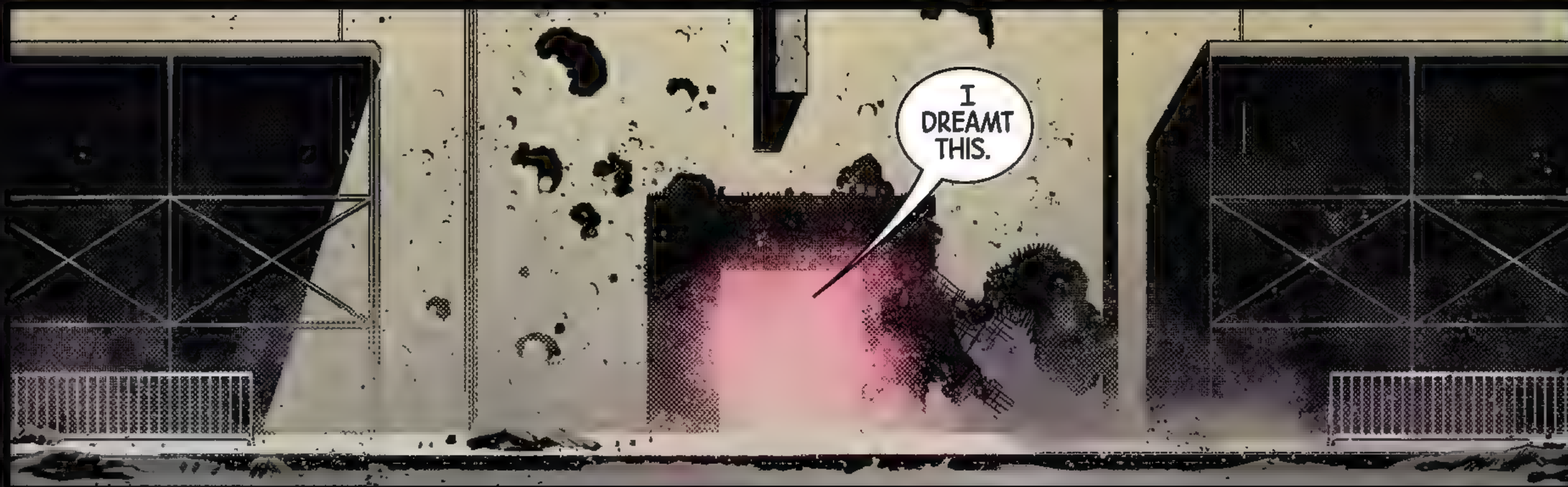
















I'VE GATHERED YOU BEFORE, YES.

I HAVE BEEN CHASING THIS DREAM, BUT A LOT HAS CHANGED.

THE KINGPIN IS NO LONGER THE KINGPIN.

THESE ARE **SEISMIC SHIFTS** IN OUR WORLD.

SEISMIC.

DOCTOR DOOM IS NO LONGER DOCTOR DOOM, AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF FUN WITH THAT...



IT CHANGES **EVERYTHING**.

NOW THAT WILSON FISK HAS GOTTEN HIS FAT, GREEDY FINGERS OFF OF OUR NECKS...

...WE CAN PROPERLY REWARD OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER FOR THE WORK THAT WE DO.

WHATCHA MEAN?

WE **ALL** GET TO BE THE KINGPIN?



MY VISION.

SUPER-POWERED KINGPINS IN EVERY TERRITORY DOWN THE ENTIRE EASTERN SEABOARD.

**EACH** OF YOU IS GOING TO BE ASSIGNED A TERRITORY.



AND YOU WILL BE THE UNDISPUTED **KINGPIN** OF THAT TERRITORY.

ANYONE BREAKS PROTOCOL AND THAT PERSON ANSWERS TO ME.



MEANING?



FORFEITING THEIR TERRITORY...

AND OTHER THINGS.



NOW! OBVIOUSLY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MYSELF AS THE KINGPIN OF THE KINGPINS.

I WILL NEVER ACTUALLY CALL MYSELF THAT PUBLICLY...

YES. HE WILL.

HA.

BUT...





BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THIS CONVERSATION....

I'LL BE THE KINGPIN OF ALL YOU KINGPINS.

YOU ARE ALL POWERFUL TYPE-A PERSONALITIES WHO DESERVE SO MUCH MORE THAN WHAT YOU HAVE.

WE'RE GOING TO CONTROL THIS ENTIRE REGION WITH LOCKED ARMS AND A--

I HAVE A QUESTION--



FLASHY AND FLAMBOYANT. THAT'S HOW YA GET KILLED.

EXACTLY.

WHAT'S TO STOP THE AVENGERS--

OR ANYONE...



JUST ASK OUR FRIEND HAMMERHEAD HERE.

YOU GUYS FIND YOURSELF DOWN THE BARREL OF A GUN, YOU HAVE ME TO BRING YOU BACK.



BUZZ BOOZZZ

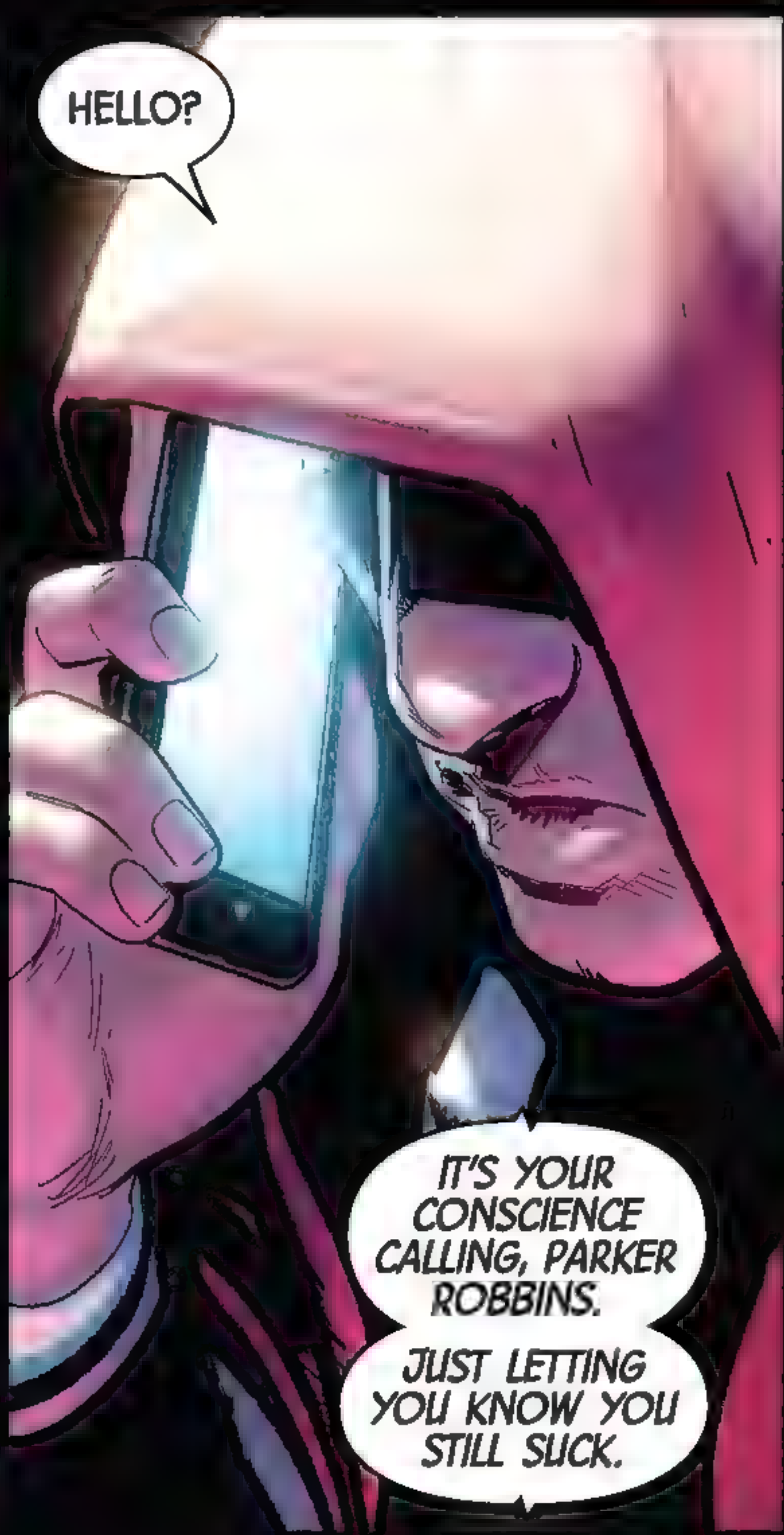
BUZZ PINE PINE

I SAID NO PHONES.

DUDE, I GOT KIDS.

BUZZ

PINE PINE BUZZ



HELLO?

IT'S YOUR CONSCIENCE CALLING, PARKER ROBBINS.

JUST LETTING YOU KNOW YOU STILL SUCK.



JESSICA JONES? AS I LIVE AND BREATHE.

JUST CALLING TO SAY: PARTY'S OVER, CREEPS.

AND FOR THE REST OF YOU BROKEN BABY MEN, IF YOU'RE STUPID ENOUGH TO COME WHEN THE HOOD CALLS...

...THEN YOU EARNED WHAT'S COMING TO YOU NEXT.



I THINK YOU'RE HIGHLY OVERESTIMATING WHAT THE FOUR OF YOU CAN DO.





**THE END.**

THANK YOU FROM BRIAN, DAVID AND JUSTIN.  
IT HAS BEEN A TRUE HONOR.

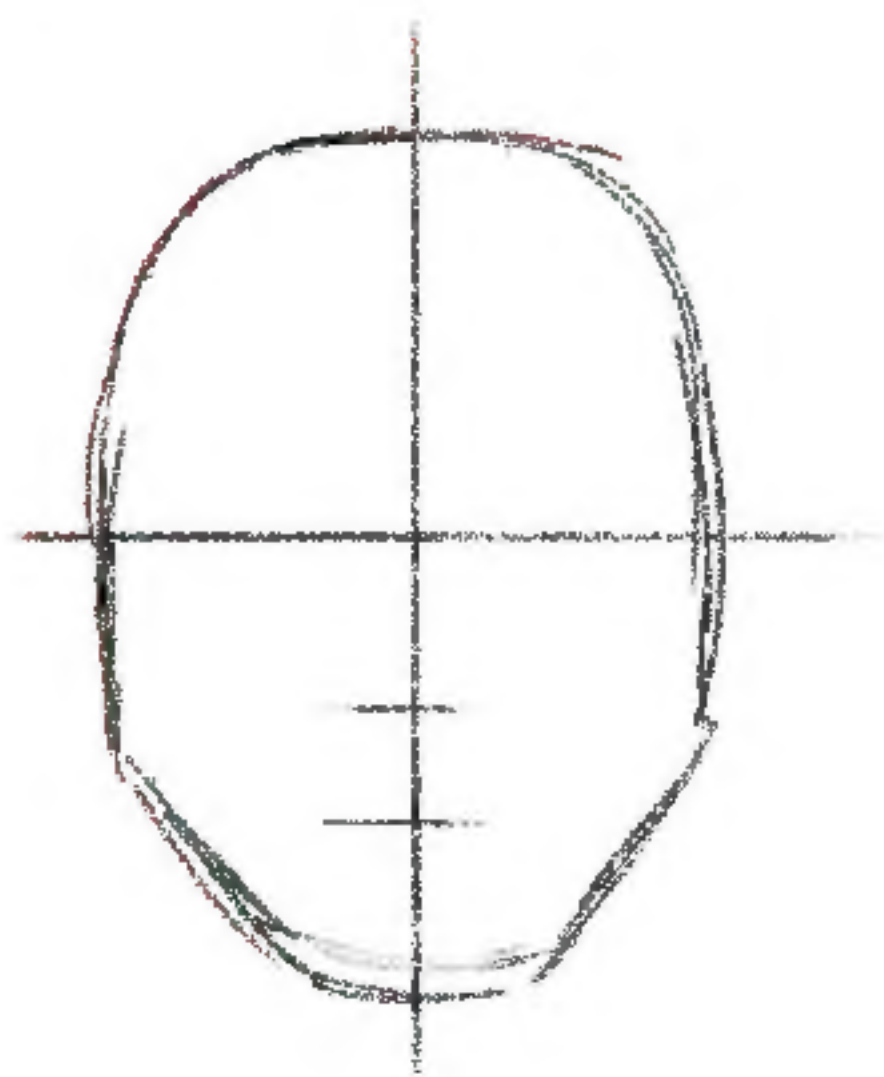


# HOW TO DRAW LUKE CAGE IN SIX EASY STEPS!

BY CHIP “‘HERO’ FOR HIRE” ZDARSKY

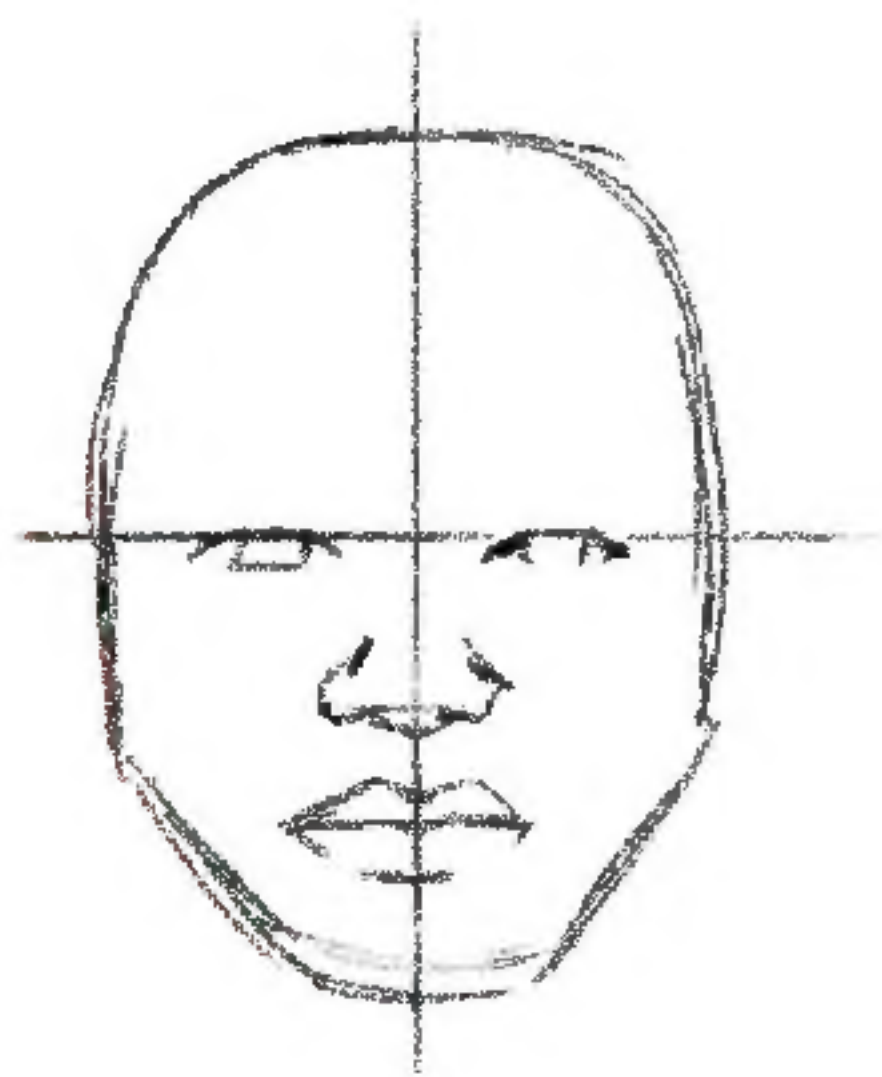
Wow! A “sketch variant cover”! A simple, yet elegant, way to get your art on the cover of a Marvel comic! Anyway, here’s a fun and informative step-by-step guide to drawing LUKE CAGE!

1



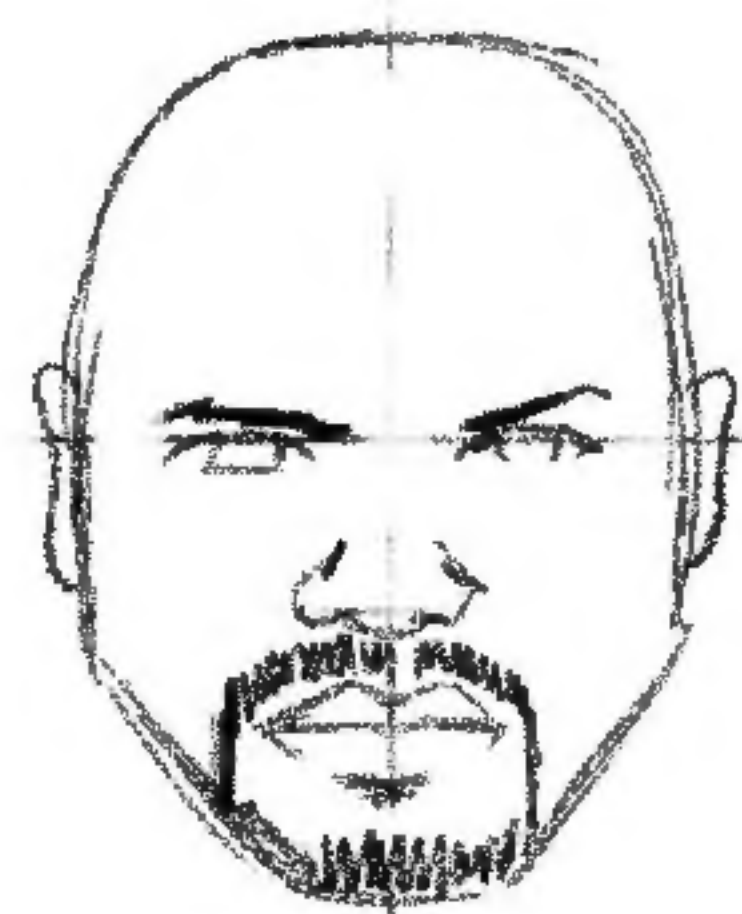
First step is to outline his head. Rounder top half, more squared-off bottom half. Then, lines to indicate center, eyeline, nose and mouth position.

2



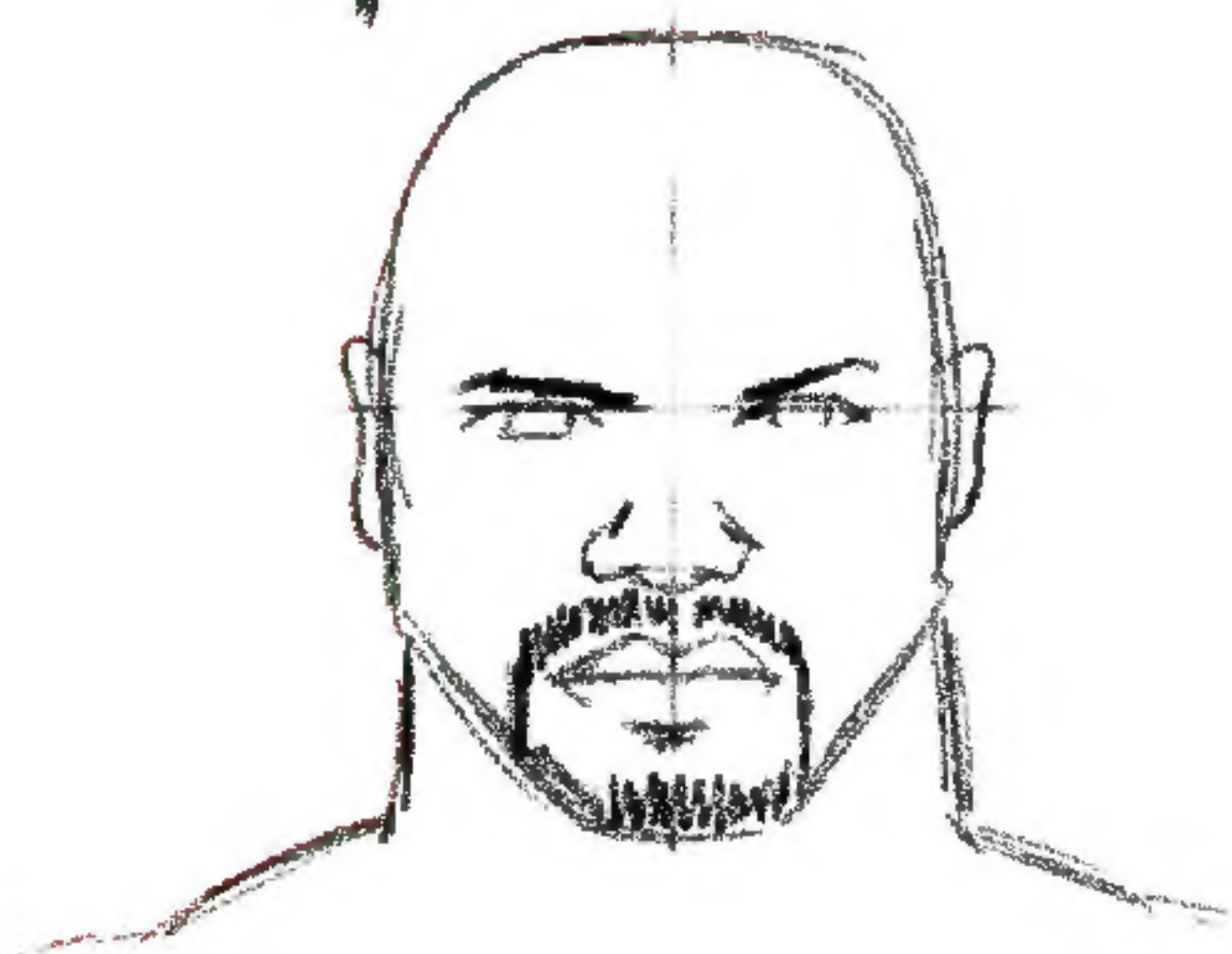
Then start to add features! Eyes roughly one eye apart, mouth slightly wider than nose.

3



Luke sports a goatee, so add that. Then some ears. Eyebrows slightly furrowed, like he’s going to take on a bad guy!

4



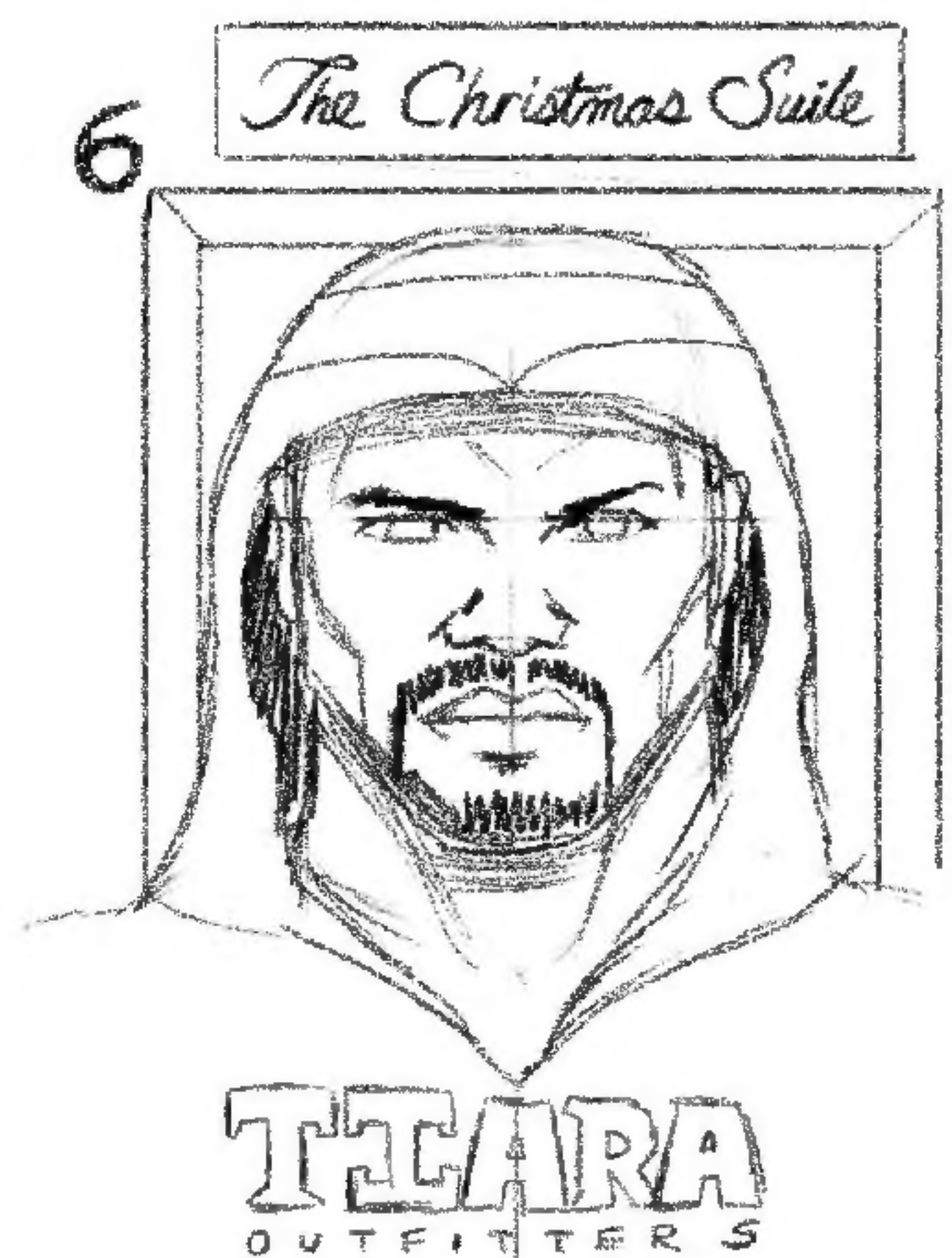
He’s muscular, so go ahead and add a thick neck and trapezius, to give us more context!

5



Now he ... doesn’t really have a costume anymore, but he’s been known to wear a hoodie, so if you want MORE context for who he is, add one! And some fine detail and shading!

6



And finally, to REALLY let people know this is Luke, make a bunch of references to his '70s incarnation!



The Marvel logo is displayed in its classic red and white font. The background of the entire page is a comic book illustration of Kingpin, Bullseye, and Elektra. Kingpin is at the top, Bullseye is in the middle, and Elektra is at the bottom. They are all looking forward with serious expressions. The background shows a city skyline at night.

*"Marquez's versatility  
is on full display."*

—IGN

THE DEFENDERS ARE ENGAGED IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE  
TO KEEP THE CITY SAFE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN

# ALL-OUT GANG WAR!

SO WHAT COULD make things even worse? Would you believe – Deadpool? The Kingpin's kingdom is up for grabs, and the streets will burn as every major underworld figure makes a play to be the next lord of crime! Unfortunately for them, this is exactly why the Defenders have gathered: to fight for the people of New York! But bad press is about to have a disastrous impact on the lives of Luke and Jessica. And how exactly does Diamondback know so much about the Defenders? As Harlem burns, heroes rise and heroes fall – and there will be new Defenders.

COLLECTING *DEFENDERS* (2017) #6-10 – BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS,  
DAVID MARQUEZ, MICHAEL AVON OEMING AND JUSTIN PONSOR.

T+

MARQUEZ!  
J-Po?



